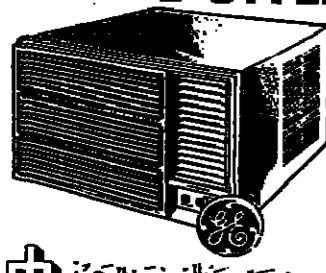


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ARAB TIMES

NO. 7523

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1989

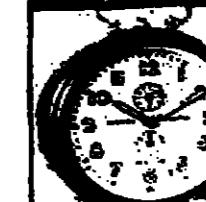
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Strike over, workers assured of payment

By a staff reporter

MORE than 1,000 workers of the United Building Company (UBCO), yesterday called off their strike after the company assured them of payment within a week.

Arab Times has learnt that a dispute, between UBCO and the National Housing Authority (NHA), which was allegedly the reason for non-payment of wages was settled, at a meeting yesterday.

The workers went on strike on Saturday for non-payment of wages since December.

NHA has agreed to release the payment of two instalments — KD181,000 and KD315,000 — to UBCO it was learnt.

The workers comprising Thais, Indians, Pakistanis, Bangladeshis and Arabs, are owed wages amounting to more than KD400,000.

The workers are expected to be paid "within a week" or "as soon as the cash is released," Arab Times has learnt.

The disagreement between NHA and UBCO had been simmering for months before it hit a snag in December, leading to financial difficulties for the contractors. The contractors claim NHA owes them much more than the two instalments that were approved yesterday.

This was the second time workers on the camp site had struck. The first strike lasted three weeks in March when 462 Thai workers stopped work to demand back pay. The strike was called off after the employer assured the Thai workers they would be paid by the end of March. The Thais struck on Saturday, April 1, and the others, Pakistanis (200), Indians (250), Bangladeshis (100) and Arabs joined them afterwards.

This is the first time that the contractor was involved in a case of non-payment to labourers, who live in a camp which is relatively better maintained than other labour camps in Al Quran.

INSIDE

International	2,3
Kuwait-Gulf	4
Middle East	5
Editorials	6
Business	7,10
Stocks	8,9
Events	11
Features	12,13
Classifieds	14
Urdu	15,16
Sports	17,18

آن کاروں صفاتیں

- انگستان نے ملٹی
- کوشل کا جلاس طلب کر لیا
- بھارت جدید میزائل کا
- تجربہ کرے گا
- کراچی میں قاریگر سے
- تین افراد کی رک
- بھوکی بڑی آج منانی جا
- ریسی پے
- پامیلی محنت یا بھوری
- بیویت میں خوزیر جگ
- جاری ہے

Common cause in Islam

Saudi Arabia, Iran may sit to defend the Faith

NICOSIA, April 3, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia plans a meeting of 45 Islamic states, including fundamentalist Iran, to discuss ways of dealing with threats to Islam, officials said today.

Minister of Pilgrimage and Endowments Sheikh Abdul Wahhab Abdul Wasie will invite his counterparts from the 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to meet on May 17 in Makkah.

"All the members of the OIC are invited and that means Iran too," a government official contacted by telephone said.

Saudi Arabia, which severed ties with Iran last April, hosted similar meetings in 1979, 1980 and 1981.

"The meeting is called to discuss ways of spreading the faith and combat atheistic factions and currents threatening the Muslim

world," the official added.

It is not known if Iran will attend, but diplomats believe Tehran might use the opportunity to try and settle its dispute with Riyadh.

The official said the meeting will not discuss arrangements for next July's hajj. "That is discussed bilaterally between us and the other states."

Intifada will not end, says PLO

Election offer rejected

NICOSIA, April 3, (Agencies): The central council of the PLO, ending a four-day conference in Tunisia today, barred any let up in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories in exchange for Israeli-sponsored elections.

The council welcomed new US attitude to Middle East.

"The central council announced to the world that the intifada will not cease and our people's struggle will continue," said a statement sent to the Associated Press in Cyprus by the official Palestinian press agency, Wafa.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir announced last week his government would allow limited elections in the occupied territories, and withdraw troops from major Arab cities, if the Palestinian uprising stopped.

The move accompanies fears of a resumption of a Muslim separatist war that killed tens of thousands in the 1970s, the military said.

Meanwhile, the Filipino envoy to the UAE denied that his countrymen working in Arab states are spying for Israel.

Mindanao commander Major General Manuel Cacanando said the military had monitored "very consistent" rebel reports that Muslim leader Nur Misuari was returning this month from self-exile in Saudi Arabia to start a new guerrilla offensive.

"The report (is) that Nur Misuari is planning to come back and they will launch an offensive ... we are on red alert," Cacanando said in a radio interview.

An MNLF offensive would make President Corazon Aquino's 160,000-strong, ill-equipped Army fight wars on two fronts. Communist rebels, regarded by officials as the more serious threat, operate in 65 of the country's 73 provinces.

Misuari heads the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) whose war for Muslim secession plunged this largely Catholic nation of 60 million people into a bitter guerrilla war.

The military said more than 50,000 people died at the height of the conflict in the 1970s, while other officials put the toll at around 100,000. A ceasefire has been in effect in the area since President Aquino met with Misuari in the southern guerrilla stronghold of Jolo in September 1986.

The envoy to the UAE, Isabelle Astraquillo, issued a statement saying he "categorically denied" the charge which he said was "another malicious propaganda ploy of the MNLF to discredit the Philippines government."

Misuari had "no factual basis to what he said," the ambassador's statement added.

Misuari claimed in an interview that Mossad, Israel's secret service, "exploited the general Arab acceptance of the Filipino workforce to recruit them as agents."

Misuari said that as many as 10,000 Filipino workers were involved in spying, mainly in the Arab states. But he did not give any details to support his claim.

On Palestinian governmental affairs, the committee said the PNC, a parliament in exile, will have to define the powers of the newly established presidency.

The statement said that the executive committee will continue to act as a government-in-exile until a provisional government is formed.

The statement did not specify when such a government would be formed.

The council also called for holding an Arab summit.

See Shamir offers
Page 5



Protest rallies

Strikers lie on the street near South Korea's shipyard during protest rallies against police storming of the yard in the southeastern city of Ulsan. (Reuter wirephoto)

See Strikers fight
Page 10

WEATHER

CLOUDY to partly cloudy weather with light variable to moderate south-easterly wind.
State of sea: slight to moderate
High water: 10.00 am, 10.30 pm
Low water: 4.40 am, 4.45 pm
Sunrise: 5.43 am
Sunset: 6.09 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 29°C 54°F
Ahmed: 25°C 77°F
Fallaka: 27°C 81°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 13°C 55°F
Ahmed: 16°C 61°F
Fallaka: 15°C 59°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 28°C 82°F
Ahmed: 24°C 75°F
Fallaka: 26°C 76°F
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 24 per cent
Ahmed: 26 per cent
Fallaka: 25 per cent

Tribute to Bhutto, Benazir to lead

ISLAMABAD, April 3, (Reuters): Pakistan's new Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will lead thousands of supporters tomorrow in tribute to her once-reviled politician-father, executed 10 years ago.

In the early hours of April 4, 1979, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, deposed as prime minister 21 months earlier, was taken from a prison cell and hanged.

A decade later Bhutto is as controversial a figure as ever.

To former President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's political critics the Bhutto government of 1971-

1977 was a period of paranoia, persecution and misrule.

Bhutto's committed supporters venerate him, and in their eyes he is vindicated by the election victory last November of his daughter Benazir, now the Muslim world's first woman premier.

A two-day seminar on the life of the "martyred champion of the poor" began in Karachi yesterday. Speakers heaped praise on his memory, led by his widow Nusrat, now a "senior minister" and effectively deputy prime minister.

Iraqi singer mourned

BAGHDAD, April 3, (AP): Thousands of traditional music fans marched today in a funeral procession for the renowned Iraqi singer Mohammad Al Qubanchi who died yesterday in a Baghdad hospital at the age of 88.

ANKARA, April 3, (UPI): The Turkish Foreign Ministry announced today that Ankara was recalling its ambassador to Tehran and charged Iran with interfering in Turkey's internal affairs.

The announcement came hours after five bomb blasts rocked Ankara and Istanbul.

Two blasts, in Ankara, were aimed at British targets, but police said it was not clear whether or not Iranians were involved. A leftist group took responsibility for three Istanbul explosions.

Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Nuzhet Kan demir said at a news conference that Turkey's Ambassador to Tehran Omer Akbel was being recalled "for consultation" following Iranian interference in Turkey's internal affairs.

Turkey has repeatedly charged over the past month that Iran was interfering in its internal affairs after the constitutional court in Ankara upheld a ban on the Islamic headress by women students in Turkish universities.

There was no immediate reaction from Tehran to the announcement.

(Continued on Page 5 Col. 3)

Dogs may aid diagnosis

That whiff of cancer

LONDON, April 3, (Reuters): A woman whose life was probably saved by her dog's keen sense of smell has prompted British doctors to consider using dogs to help them diagnose cancer.

In the latest edition of the Lancet medical journal, doctors at King's College Hospital in London said a woman was alerted to a cancerous mole on her leg after her mongrel spent several minutes each day sniffing at it.

Eventually the dog — a cross between a collie and a Doberman — bit off the lesion, prompting the woman to see a doctor two years ago. He diagnosed cancer.

"This dog may have saved her owner's life by prompting her to seek treatment when the lesion was still at a thin and curable stage," the article said.

The doctors said it was worth considering using dogs with a highly-developed sense of smell to help diagnose cancer.

There were no immediate details on the payload capability and range of the Indian missile.

But it is expected to be a more powerful version of Prithvi, a surface-to-surface missile test-fired last year over 230 kilometres (150 miles) with a one-ton payload.

Arab Times

Grand Bingo

Numbers for

Game No. 69

appear on Page 2.



A woman anxiously looks at the damage caused by artillery shelling at the entrance of a shelter in West Beirut. (Reuter wirephoto)

Shelling on Lebanon peace hopes dashed

BEIRUT, April 3, (Agencies): Syrian and Christian gunners pounded residential areas of Beirut today as new political efforts to halt the worst civil war fighting in four years fell apart.

A police spokesman said 20 people were killed and 42 wounded in the non-stop bombardment across Beirut's dividing Green Line and hills above the capital that started at nightfall on Saturday.

The latest casualties raised the overall toll to 147 killed and 481 wounded since the clashes erupted on March 8, pitting Christian units of Army Commander Major General Michel Aoun against an alliance of Muslim troops and Druze militiamen.

The shelling slackened around midday today, allowing tens of thousands of traumatised residents to leave underground shelters for the first time in 40 hours.

Many hurriedly stockpiled food, powdered milk, mineral water, and tranquillizers, and then rushed back to bunkers, fearing the shelling would escalate again.

Chances of a swift settlement to the crisis collapsed when Aoun, who heads the Christian military cabinet in Lebanon's dual government, rejected a suggestion by rival Muslim Prime Minister Selim Hoss that they resign simultaneously.

"That wouldn't work. It's nonsense," Aoun was quoted as saying by an aide, who spoke by telephone on condition of anonymity as the thunder of exploding shells echoed across the capital.

Hoss made the suggestion yesterday in an impassioned appeal to all warring factions to "stop shooting at once, stop the blood-bath, stop the massacre."

Hoss' Interior Minister, Abdulla Rassi told reporters today: "We're at a loss. We can't find a way out of this horrific, vicious circle."

Rassi proposed setting up a joint Christian and Muslim

(Continued on Page 5 Col. 3)



Gorbachev and Fidel Castro embrace after Gorbachev arrived at Jose Marti airport. At left is Raisa. (Reuter wirephoto)

Gorbachev and Castro begin talks

Thatcher to press on Moscow's chemical arms

HAVANA, April 3. (Agencies): Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and Fidel Castro today began daylong talks expected to deal with differences between the two communist countries, amid Soviet assurances the Kremlin is not seeking blind loyalty from its most enduring overseas ally.

The government news media spoke in glowing terms of the first visit by the Soviet Communist Party leader to a Latin American nation.

"Enthusiastic and massive reception for Gorbachev."

Headlined Cuba's Communist Party daily, Granma, alluding to the hundreds of thousands who lined the streets for a glimpse of the Soviet President.

After laying a wreath at a monument to Cuban independence hero Jose Marti, Gorbachev and his Cuban counterpart set aside more than six hours for talks on the Soviet leader's first full day in Cuba.

Castro, wearing the green fatigue uniform that has been his trademark for three decades, walked onto the rain-soaked tar-

mac after Gorbachev's Ilyushin 62 jetliner landed yesterday and threw his arms around the Soviet leader.

It was the third meeting of the communist leaders but Gorbachev's first visit to Cuba, the island-nation that for nearly 30 years has stood as a symbol of Soviet influence 90 miles (140 kilometres) off the US coast.

Castro kissed Gorbachev's wife, Raisa, on both cheeks before escorting Gorbachev on a review of the presidential honour guard.

Officials in London said today

that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will press Gorbachev to disclose details of Moscow's chemical weapons stockpile during his visit to Britain this week.

Gorbachev's 48-hour stay from Wednesday, his third visit to Britain, will emphasise that Anglo-Soviet relations are in their best shape since the end of World War II, they added.

But they said Thatcher, believed here to be the Western leader closest to Gorbachev, plans to use the relationship to press him on defence and security.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Appeal rejected

WASHINGTON, April 3. (Reuter): The US Supreme Court rejected today an appeal by three defendants in the Iran-Contra criminal case who claimed the indictments against them were tainted and should be dismissed.

Former White House aide Oliver North, former National Security Adviser John Poindexter and arms dealer Albert Hakim had asked the court to dismiss all charges against them.

The trial of North, the key figure in the scandal, began on January 31. The other defendants will be tried separately later.

Two detained

LONDON, April 3. (KUNA): A man and a woman were being questioned today under the prevention of terrorism act in the UK after being arrested at a guest house.

The swoop came in Farnham, Surrey, near London, where it was suspected bomb-making equipment could be hidden.

Specialist British officers from the Army bomb unit with sniffer dogs were searching the two-storey guest house.

Streets were sealed off in the area and the two arrested are said to be in their 40s.

Massacre at sea

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3. (AP): A teenage boy today described how a boat carrying him and 57 other Vietnamese refugees came under pirate attack in the South China Sea, a local news report said.

Doa Hoa, 14, believed to be one of only two survivors of the March 25 attack, told the Malaysian national news agency Bernama that he saw the "merciless" pirates slash and kill 35 of his fellow boat people, mostly men and boys, and dump them into the sea.

The others, mostly girls and women, were carried off by the six pirates, he was quoted as saying from a hospital in Kuala Terengganu, 350 kilometres (210 miles) northeast of here.

Protest march

KATHMANDU, April 3. (UPI): Some 15,000 students staged today one of the largest demonstrations in recent years in Nepal in the third consecutive day of protests against economic sanctions imposed by India that have hit hard on this land-locked country, witnesses said.

The students, chanting anti-Indian and anti-government slogans and defying baton-wielding police, attempted to climb the stairs leading to the university central secretariat offices, after waves of demonstrators went around downtown and shopkeepers shuttered their business, the sources said.

At New Road in downtown Kathmandu, the demonstrators marched 20 abreast and about 200 deep, the witnesses said.

Requirement mass

BUDAPEST, April 3. (Reuter): Four thousand people, including members of Hungary's former aristocracy, attended a requiem mass today for Zita in the church where she was crowned as the country's last queen in December 1916.

Thousands more stood outside in the rain, cheering Zita's 76-year-old son Otto von Habsburg — Hungary's last crown prince — when he emerged with his family after attending the service on only his third visit to Hungary in seven decades.

Tuberculosis

NEW DELHI, April 3. (UPI): Nearly half a million Indians die annually of tuberculosis, a preventable disease from which some 10 million others suffer mostly due to late detection in remote rural areas, a report said today.

The Patriot newspaper quoted officials from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as saying medical authorities needed to expand their nationwide network of laboratories if tuberculosis was to be detected and cured in its early stages.

Robbery

HONG KONG, April 3. (AP): Four armed robbers ambushed a car belonging to a trading company near the Hong Kong airport today and escaped with gold and cash worth several million Hong Kong dollars, police said.

Police said the car was headed for the airport with gold bars and cash for shipment to Taipei when it was stopped by the robbers' car.

Namibian toll reaches 160

SWAPO offers peace

WINDHOEK, Namibia, April 3. (Agencies): Police backed by Army units and helicopter gunships clashed with SWAPO guerrillas on day three of a UN independence programme today sending the death toll to more than 160 as UN officials grappled with how to end the bloodshed.

SWAPO guerrilla leader Sam Nujoma blamed the fiasco on the United Nations special representative in Namibia, Martti Ahonen, and denied any of the independence fighters had crossed into Namibia from Angola.

Nujoma, speaking at a conference on Namibia in Harare, accused South Africa of loosing "murder squads" on his men and called South African accounts of the fighting "figments of Pretoria's imagination."

"This is the worst in my experience in 10 years," Gen. Hans Dreyer, northern police commissioner, said by telephone from Ohlakati in the centre of northern Ovamboland where the fighting is taking place.

SWAPO leaders said the fighting could be stopped if the South Africans agreed.

"We are ready to send our commanders to the area and order a halt to the fighting provided the South Africans do the same," SWAPO information secretary Hipipo Hamutenya said in the Angolan capital Luanda.

"We could stop it in a couple of hours if we could fly our commanders into the area," he added.

Witnesses returning from the front said villages were ablaze and bodies lay strewn on the ground. Helicopter gunships were being mobilised to contain the rebels who had ground-to-air missiles, they reported.

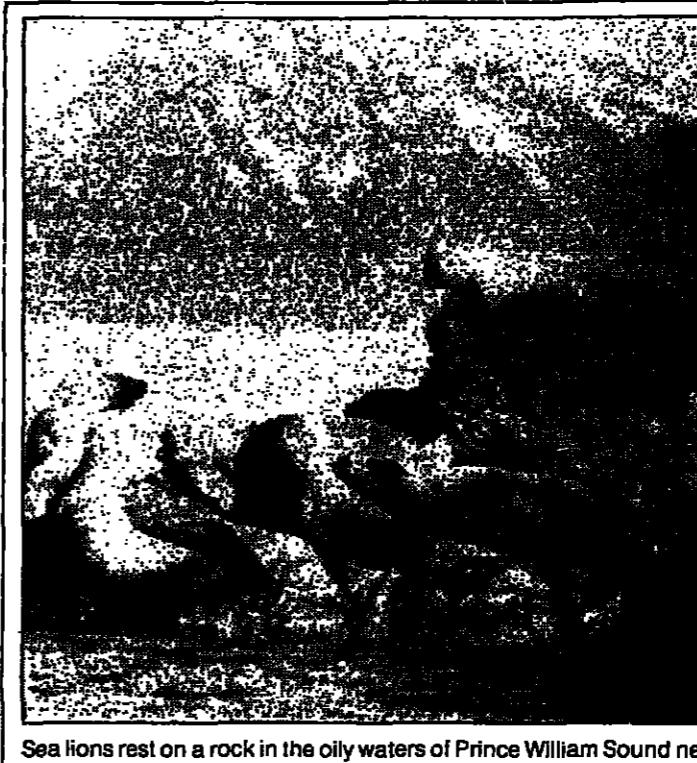
The territorial police force said the clashes began when more than 1,000 SWAPO guerrillas entered Namibia from Angola with weapons in breach of the ceasefire which is a key element in the UN plan to bring Namibia to independence.

Nujoma said his men had been provoked into fighting. "The fighting started in Namibia," he said, but added: "It is possible our men asked for reinforcements."

Both the rebels and the South African-led forces were to be confined to bases under the accords bringing into effect UN Resolution 435, the framework for Namibian independence passed in 1978.

The UN office in Windhoek said the Security Council might go into emergency session later today to discuss the crisis and the fate of the peacekeeping force.

■ Iran recognised yesterday the "formal" independence of Namibia from South Africa, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.



Sea lions rest on a rock in the oily waters of Prince William Sound near Knight Island. The oil spill from the Exxon Valdez now covers over 1,000 square miles. (Reuter wirephoto)

Tanker runs aground, spills oil into Rhine

WIESBADEN, West Germany, April 3. (Agencies): A tanker carrying 1,200 tons of fuel oil ran aground today on a Rhine River embankment and spilled an undetermined amount of its cargo, halting ship traffic for hours.

The Rhinetank 24 threatened to break up after it was severely damaged on a stone embankment near the city of Oppenheim, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) southwest of Frankfurt, authorities said.

Crews surrounded the vessel with oil containment booms and began transferring the oil from the damaged tanker to another ship, said Jochen Boehm, spokesman for the water protection police in Hesse state.

"Some of the oil has spilled into the river, but we have no estimate whatsoever of the quantity that has gotten into the water or the amount of damage it has caused," Boehm said by telephone from his office in Mainz.

Biologists and volunteers, wearing yellow rubber coveralls and boots, worked grimly washing oysters and birds brought in by boat and aircraft. A refrigerated truck trailer served as a morgue for those that didn't make it.

China rejects amnesty plea

Rights: 'abstract concept'

BEIJING, April 3. (UPI): Chinese Premier Li Peng called human rights an "abstract concept" today and said that while China would try to improve freedoms for its citizens, its leadership would brook no foreign criticism and no public disorder.

Li spoke at a two-hour news conference held with three vice-premiers during the ongoing session of the National People's Congress, the rubber-stamp parliament, which closes tomorrow.

Human rights has become a stiff undercurrent during the

parliament session after the government rejected recent public pleas by leading Chinese intellectuals to the NPC to consider granting an amnesty for political prisoners, notably Wei Jingsheng, the most famous dissident from the 1978-1979 "Democracy Wall" Movement.

Wei, sentenced in 1979 to 15 years in prison for his activities, marked his 10th year in prison last week.

Chinese customs officials also last week seized petitions to the NPC being brought to Beijing by Hong Kong activists, drawing renewed criticism.

Seoul detains two dissident leaders

SEOUL, April 3. (AP): Security police said they imprisoned two dissidents and raided offices today in a crackdown triggered by a surprise trip to communist North Korea by a dissenting clergyman.

The action came as South Korea's security agencies and police formed an alliance to investigate anti-government activity, and protesters battled riot police in support of the Rev Moon Ik-Hwan and striking shipyard workers.

Police said they charged Lee Jae-Oh, 45, and Koh Un, 56, with violating security laws and jailed them for seeking unauthorised contact with North Korea.

Koh, a poet, was accused of attempting to take six literary figures to the North Korean border March 1 for unification talks. Lee, a co-chairman of South Korea's main dissident United National Democratic Movement, also was charged with conspiring to plan Moon's trip. Moon went to North Korea last week.

Government officials said they will arrest Moon upon his return. He left Pyongyang today after discussing reunification with North Korean leader Kim Il Sung and was expected to come back to Seoul via other countries.

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Pamella Bordes, the woman alleged by the British press to be involved in a sex scandal in the British House of Commons, arrives at Hong Kong's Kai Tak airport on April 2, accompanied by reporters. Bordes is in Hong Kong for treatment, following a motorcycle accident in Indonesia. (Reuter wirephoto)

Maureen battered but couldn't kill older mate

NEW YORK, April 3. (Reuter): Maureen Reagan, eldest child of former President Ronald Reagan, reveals in her forthcoming autobiography that she was beaten and abused by her first husband more than 25 years ago and never told her parents.

"At the age of 20, I married a man who was about 10 years older than I was. It turned out to be the worst single mistake of my entire life," she writes in her book *First Father, First Daughter*, to be published later this month.

"By the time I finally discovered the strength to leave him, I had been brutally beaten, abused, battered and kicked about the face and head by this man on more occasion than I care to count..."

Excerpts of her book were published yesterday in the weekly magazine *People*.

Reagan, 48, who is now married for the third time, declines to identify her first husband, except to say he was a police officer she met while working as a secretary in Washington. After a brief courtship, they were married in 1961.

"Right away he began to show himself as an emotionally unstable man, given to violent fits of temper," she writes.

As the beating became more common, Reagan said she thought of killing her husband. "One time I picked up his service revolver and held it in my hands and realised to my relief that I was incapable of murder," she writes.

After she left him he harassed her, she writes, forcing her to move five times before the couple were divorced in 1962.

She said her sense of guilt over the abuse prevented her telling her father or mother, the actress Jane Wyman. The first her parents knew of the beatings was when she sent them manuscripts of her book last year.

Leave Louganis alone, court says

LOS ANGELES, April 3. (AP): The housemate and former business manager of Olympic gold medalist Greg Louganis has been ordered to stay at least 500 feet (152 meters) away from the diver unless they mutually agree to closer contact.

But Superior Court Judge Dzintra Janavas refused to order R. James Babbitt out of the Malibu home he has shared with Louganis for four years.

Louganis, who won gold medals for springboard and platform diving in last summer's Olympics, fired Babbitt, his manager for six years, on March 13. He alleges that Babbitt threatened to make public "confidential and private facts" about him unless Louganis rehires him or compensates him.

Bordes bruised but in fine shape

Tabloids bid for story

HONG KONG, April 3. (UPI): The central figure in the British parliamentary sex scandal was recovering from a motorcycle accident in a Hong Kong hospital today while her lawyer haggled over the price of her story with British reporters.

Pamella Bordes, the 27-year-old former Indian beauty queen involved in a House of Commons sex scandal, was under observation at Adventist Hospital for injuries received in a motorcycle crash in Indonesia.

"She's in fine shape other than the fact that she has a number of abrasions," hospital spokesman Wayne Woodhams said.

He said Bordes, who was admitted to the hospital yesterday evening, was in pain and had been visited by three doctors, including a plastic surgeon.

She was listed in good condition, but Woodhams said doctors were waiting to see how the cuts and bruises to her face and arms healed before deciding about plastic surgery.

Hospital officials had to call in police today to help remove more than a dozen British reporters who burst into her room seeking interviews.

Bordes hit the headlines last month when newspapers alleged that she operated as a \$1,700 a

Pope expounds thrill of drills

Blessing for army boots

ROME, April 3. (AP): Pope John Paul II told a group of military cadets yesterday that military service for young people was positive because it instilled discipline.

The Pope, in a mass at the Italian military base just south of Rome, also said arms reduction was an important goal but should not be unilateral.

John Paul told the group: "Military service is a test for the young and demands a lot emotionally. It is easy for the young person to change his way of life, and above all be placed under a certain discipline."

He added, "because of this perhaps it isn't very pleasurable, but at the same time it is so useful and very constructive."

"Each of us should be disciplined and perhaps this is what is missing for many young people of today, especially in wealthy countries, countries that have a lot of liberty, not to mention libertinism — a discipline is missing. A self-discipline that is valuable throughout life."

Prisoners to crime

62.5pc of inmates rearrested

WASHINGTON, April 3. (UPI): Within three years of their release from a state prison, 62.5 per cent of former inmates were arrested, frequently for the same type of crime that led to their earlier imprisonment, a study by the Justice Department found.

The study of inmates released in 11 states in 1983 projected that the nearly 109,000 prisoners freed that year already had been charged during their lifetimes with 1.7 million serious crimes, an average of 12 each.

By 1986, the estimated 68,000 prisoners rearrested were charged with another 326,000 felonies and serious misdemeanours — including 2,300 homicides, the Department's Office of Justice Programmes said in a study released yesterday.

The department estimated that 47 per cent of those rearrested were convicted of a new crime and 41 per cent were sent back to prison or jail.

The study, billed as the most comprehensive multi-state research of recidivism ever conducted, tracked a sampling of more than 16,000 prisoners.

Supporting popular theories, the findings indicated that recidivism rates were higher for those with long previous arrest records, youths, men, blacks, Hispanics and those who had not completed high school.

It focused on inmates released in California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon and Texas, states that accounted for more than 57 per cent of all state prisoners released in 1983.

Cancer claims the poor

IRVINE, California, April 3. (UPI): A growing body of evidence suggests it is not only genetic factors but poverty and other economic conditions that determine who in America will survive cancer, a prominent specialist said yesterday.

Dr Harold Freeman, president of the American Cancer Society, told reporters at the organization's 31st annual Science Writer's seminar that "(cancer) kills more of America's poor than those living above the poverty line."

Quoting American Cancer Society statistics from the group's subcommittee on cancer in the economically disadvantaged, Freeman said results showed the chance of developing cancer and dying from it were highly

correlated with income.

The report revealed nearly 34 million Americans earning \$10,000 a year or less — 23 million whites, 9.5 million blacks, and 1.2 million people of other races — have a survival rate of 15 per cent below that of the country's middle-class population.

"Clearly, risk factors related to some cancers such as the use of tobacco and alcohol, poor diet and nutrition, and certain occupational exposures may have more influence among the poor," he said.

Freeman, a professor of cancer surgery at Columbia University's college of physicians and surgeons in New York, also cited a lack of health insurance as playing a key role in determining who in the United States receives

appropriate treatment for cancer.

An estimated 37 million Americans lack health insurance coverage and nearly 11 million of these are poor. Lack of insurance among the poor has been made worse by a long-term decline in the proportion of the poor covered by Medicaid, he said.

Freeman noted that even though Medicaid was created to provide access to health care for the poor, it essentially covers less than half of all poor people in the country.

"When poor people do enter the health system," he said of cancer victims, "they usually are found to have late-stage disease."

"No matter how skilled the physician or how advanced the technology, we cannot cure people with advanced, widely spread cancer."

Japanese Army men may finally surrender

BANGKOK, Thailand, April 3. (AP): Two former Imperial Japanese Army soldiers who have helped Malaysian communist insurgents for four decades may surrender with 1,000 other guerrillas because they want to go home, Thai Army sources said today.

The former soldiers, both in their 70s, were part of Japan's World War II occupation force in Southeast Asia. In 1948 they joined the Communist Party of Malaya, or CPML, with 13 other Japanese soldiers to fight British and Malayan troops, the sources said.

The other 13 died in the fighting in the jungle along the Thai-Malaysian border, the sources said in telephone interviews.

"Members of the CPML have asked about defecting en masse, about the government's amnesty and returning to the fold," one source said. "And there is indirect word that the two Japanese were demoralized by their Imperial government's defeat in World War II."

"They had a strong fighting spirit. They didn't want to surrender and admit defeat," Chang said. "That was why they joined us."

Chang said his late father-in-law provided the Japanese with shelters where they hid until 1948.

Chang recalled: "It was very strange at the time. We fought each other during the World War II, following the Japanese invasion. Then when the war ended, we joined hands to fight a common enemy — the British."

He said the two Japanese soldiers who are still alive were removed from the battle in 1960 to work in a factory producing explosives in the Betong area of Yala, about 1,080 kilometres (671 miles) south of Bangkok. Yala borders Malaysia.



Four dead, 4 missing in Australian floods

Land down under

SYDNEY, Australia, April 3. (AP):

Four people were washed away and drowned in floodwaters and four others were missing today after three days of torrential rain along the east coast of Australia caused mass evacuations of country towns, police said.

Police today admitted they had few leads but said it appeared Friedrich spent years masterminding the collapse of his company, the National Safety Council, and making off with millions in company funds.

Friedrich became chief executive of the National Safety Council in the state of Victoria in 1986, transforming it from a one-aircraft operation into a national fleet and the country's largest private rescue company.

He disappeared on March 21, after submitting his resignation. The next day his company went into receivership with debts of 225 million dollars (\$180 million).

Tearful wife

Friedrich's tearful wife Shirley has pleaded on national television for her husband to "come home and clean up this mess."

Police said Friedrich now leads the country's "most wanted" list and that his alleged pocketing of 40 million dollars makes it biggest corporate theft.

He allegedly amassed loans worth millions of dollars and was able to dupe financial institutions by providing draft balance sheets that had not been certified by company accountants.

Jane Munday, spokeswoman for Victoria police, told the Associated Press that Interpol, the Paris-based international police network, had been alerted to be on the lookout for Friedrich following reported sightings of him in the Philippines, New Zealand and West Germany.

However, Munday said police believe he is still in the country and hiding out in the northern state of New South Wales or the state of South Australia.

"We don't think he's left the country," she said.

The Munich newspaper *T-Z* said Friedrich appears to be a Friedrich Hohenberger, who police there said they thought had faked his own death after defrauding his employer by sending out bills for repairs allegedly done to non-existent roads, and pocketing the payments.

Munday said today that Australian police had requested a set of fingerprints of Hohenberger to see if they match. Results were expected later in the week.

Australian media have speculated that Friedrich was involved in espionage.

Police were continuing to search for a father and son swept away and drowned in floodwaters and four others were missing today after three days of torrential rain along the east coast of Australia caused mass evacuations of country towns, police said.

One person died Saturday night when his boat overturned in floodwaters near the national capital of Canberra and three others drowned during the weekend in Queensland state.

John Barnfield, 37, and his 13-year-old son Mark were washed away with five other family members. The others scrambled to safety.

"We have to presume they haven't survived," said Sgt. George Leighton.

Almost a foot of rain (.30 metres) fell in 24 hours at Murwillumbah.

Police also searched for a youth swept away by flood waters in the Brisbane suburb of MacKenzie and a woman who was last seen struggling in the nearby flood waters of the nearby suburb of Ashgrove.

Rain hit the entire east coast from north of Brisbane to Canberra.

**DFE (Naif H. Al-Dabboos)
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Congratulations

the Embassy of the People's Republic of Hungary and all Hungarian companies in Kuwait on the occasion of the LIBERATION DAY

الجنة

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier's audiences

KUWAIT, April 3. (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah today received at his Diwan at the Bayan Palace Secretary-General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Dr. George Habash and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country.

Earlier on HH received Jordanian Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib.

Khatib conveyed to Sheikh Saad a message from Jordanian Prime Minister and Minister of Defence Zaid Al Rifai.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Oil Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi and the Jordanian ambassador to Kuwait.

HH also received Chairman of the Egyptian Supreme Council for Youth and Sport Dr. Abdul Al Ahad Jamal Eddin on the occasion of his visit to the country.

Kuwaiti exhibit

KUWAIT, April 3. (KUNA): Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad yesterday opened the second exhibition for traditional Kuwaiti environment.

The minister and the guests toured the exhibition which included 63 paintings for 48 Kuwaiti painters depicting 48 Kuwaiti environment.

The inauguration was attended by Information Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Jafaar, assistant undersecretaries and members of the diplomatic corps in Kuwait.

CSC budget

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved the draft budget of the first chapter of the state budget for the fiscal year 1989/1990 related to salaries, according to a CSC official.

Speaking at a press conference, Abdul Aziz Al Zaben an undersecretary at the CSC said that the budget does not deprive public servants of any rights that are protected by the Civil Service code. The present situation of Kuwaitis and expatriate public servants will be maintained. Non-Kuwaitis presently in employment will not be dismissed. However, only Kuwaitis will be appointed in government posts when a vacancy occurs, Zaben said.

UAE police

A NEW law on police and public security in the United Arab Emirates includes banning the appointment of any non-UAE citizen to the country's police force.

The draft law, which has already been approved by the Interior and Defence Committee of the National Federal Council (parliament), introduces wide-range changes in the current police law.

The new law also calls for establishing schools and institutes for the training of policemen, and bans resignations in the case of emergency or marital law.

Insurance system

STABLE oil prices following an agreement by OPEC to establish maximum production ceilings will be witnessed this year, according to a senior local insurance official.

Sulaiman Hamad Al Dulali, chairman of the board at Gulf Insurance Company said that because of economic and demographic developments in the region and the increase in demand for insurance coverage for oil, sea, air and industrial and oil installations, as well as in the increase in the number of operating insurance agencies, a new system is required to cope with these new demands.

Indian envoy

A PRESS release from the Indian Embassy has said that Nagendra Nath Jha, Ambassador of India, met yesterday with Abdulrahman I. Al Houti, Minister of Public Works and discussed a number of issues of mutual interest and co-operation between India and Kuwait. During his meeting with the minister, the ambassador was accompanied by J.P. Srivastava of Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON).

Bribe case

KUWAIT'S Criminal Court sentenced a secretary identified as Ibrahim to four years in jail to be followed by deportation from the country and fined him KD1000.

The court was told that the defendant had asked for a bribe to help a citizen who had a case filed against him by an insurance company to recover an amount estimated to be KD50,000.

The citizen agreed to go along with the suggestion of the accused, but informed the Criminal Intelligence Department (CID) who caught the accused red-handed.

'Intifada represents core of Arab-Israeli struggle'

Habash calls for all-out support

By Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

SECRETARY-GENERAL of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Dr George Habash gave a lecture yesterday at the Palestinian Cultural Week organised by the Palestinian Front for the Liberation of Palestine Dr. George Habash and the accompanying delegation on the occasion of their visit to the country.

Struggle

Habash said that since 1948, the Palestinian struggle was mainly outside the occupied lands and passed through several stages such as in 1967 when the struggle was shifted to the Jordan Valley with the Israelis trying to suppress the inhabitants' legitimate rights.

"The intifada represents the core of the Arab-Israeli struggle," Habash said.

Commenting on former President Reagan's statement that "Israel is a treasure," Habash said that this meant that Israel is a threat to any Arab leader or liberal movement. Discarding statements that Palestinians are terrorists, the official said: "Those who have always struggled against aggression and oppression under foreign powers have never been termed as terrorists."

During the intifada and through the present day, Palestinians have suffered economic, political and social injustices such as deportation, forced imprisonment, torture, demolition of houses, and confiscation

of their lands. Habash said. History is replete with examples such as in 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1984, and is poignant in the fact that during 1980 in Amman, kings and presidents tried to liquidate the Palestinian revolution, he added.

Existence

Israel in 1982 attacked Palestinian camps, "but this did not affect the continuation of our struggle," Habash went on, saying that "the intifada as per statements of the Palestinian united leadership means liberation and freedom which does not admit the right of Israeli existence."

The continuation and growing strength of the intifada is a reason for Jordan to disassociate its union with the West Bank, according to Habash. "By this disassociation, King Hussein tried to put the PLO in an awkward position," he said. This was followed by the declaration of the Palestinian state and the right of the people to live in their homelands, Habash continued.

The official said that the Palestinian state was a shift from history to reality. Thus, the continuation of the intifada has strong psychological and economical effects on Israel. He quoted Shimon Peres as saying "the intifada has cost Israel losses

estimated between one and two billion dollars."

What Israel wants in any future peace conference is the continuation of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, Jerusalem as its capital and an arms-free state, according to Habash.

"But what we want is a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. We fully support the PLO, the Palestinian state and President Arafat as leader of the state," he said.

Habash stressed that the intifada will continue, and called for united Arab support in the face of the Israeli threat to the Arab world.

Yemen relief

KUWAIT, April 3. (KUNA): Kuwait Joint Committee for Relief today appealed to all citizens and residents to extend all possible support to the Arab People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, following the catastrophic floods that recently hit that country.

The committee said monetary donations could be submitted through the World Islamic Charitable Authority, the Popular Committee for Collecting Donations, Zakat (alms) House, Kuwait Red Crescent Society, Social Reform Society and other local societies.

The floods demolished hundreds of houses, and rendered thousands homeless in addition to pollution of potable water.

No approval for increase in air fares

THE Minister of State for Services Affairs Issa Al Mazidi said that the directorate desires stability for airline ticket prices and does not approve of any increase in air fares.

Speaking to a local daily, he called for co-operation between authorities and travel agencies to achieve the stability of airline tickets in the local market.

Fees

The recent introduction of departure fees has been progressing smoothly and there is no intention to rescind these charges, he said.

Mazidi lauded the facilities and services rendered by the directorate towards operating airline corporations. Adjustments in the existing mode of operations will be made if this is deemed necessary, he added.

Preparations are under way to tighten security procedures in anticipation of the usual summer rush, Mazidi said.

Salary scale increase for health staff

THE Ministry of Public Health is evaluating a study on recommendations to increase the salaries of doctors, nurses and pharmacists, according to Dr Abdul Razzaq, minister of public health.

Speaking to reporters, Dr Razzaq said that the ministry spares no efforts in seeking the welfare of its staff.

He added that the Nursing and Pharmacists Societies had at an earlier date submitted petitions to the ministers requesting the formation of an ad hoc committee to look into the equation of dentists with doctors.

Meanwhile, a local daily had earlier published a statement by the ministry's undersecretary disclosing the ministry's intention to sort out differences in treatment between paramedical doctors and doctors working in hospitals. The initiative for this move is in response to a recommendation by the Council of Arabian Gulf countries health ministers, the daily said.

Student narcotic users increasing

Ostrich attitude detrimental, says Momen

Narcotics addicts are in fact heavy smokers.

Specialised committees are currently conducting studies on the narcotics problem and have proposed a number of solutions.

A major recommendation centres on the importance of the family role and parents in enlightening their youngsters on the serious pitfalls of using narcotics.

He attributed the increase in narcotics by students to the rapid social changes in the country due to an influx of foreign cultures.

In an interview with a local daily, the head of the school health department Dr Husain Al Momen said officials are worried about this and rightly so. He advocated not taking the "ostrich attitude" in visualising the problem but rather tackling it head on.

To redress the situation,

Momen recommended that a comprehensive study to bring home to students the dire consequence of narcotics should be a co-operative effort of the authorities of health, education, information security and parents.

He added that what is being published through information media is not built on facts. He confirmed that the narcotics problem does exist among youths and is increasing gradually. Statistics of the Ministry of the Interior substantiate this statement, as smuggling incidents have been increasing. The ministry has displayed drug plants which were being cultivated in homes and gardens.

Further, to assist parents who are the unfortunate victims of drug-abusing students, the official advocated that authorities should provide solace and advice and open up guidance centres.

He pointed to some signs that may help parents in determining whether their children are narcotics users. These are a decline in personality behaviour, health conditions, decline in appetite, tendency to loneliness, excessive sleep, need of large financial funds.

Momen urged parents and students who suffer from this problem to immediately contact highly confidential authorities such as schools, mental service departments, psychiatry clinics and centres at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. "Parents who discover addiction to narcotics among their children should not hesitate in contacting authorities immediately," he said.

Momen called for the implementation of field studies to highlight the size of the problem among school students. Meanwhile Dr Emtilal Al

ED MALAYALEE ORGANISATION U.M.O - KUWAIT

Reception for Kuthiravattom

The United Malayalee Organisation (UMO) recently held a reception for Thomas Kuthiravattom, a member of the Indian Parliament and a member of many other major committees, at the Al Jazeera Restaurant,

Fahaaheel. UMO President Hyder Ali and General Secretary Abu Thomas welcomed the guest. Representatives from all the organisations under UMO also addressed a large gathering. UMO treasurer, Babu Vadakkarethu gave a memorandum with six major issues and problems of non-resident Indians and also a copy of another memorandum regarding increased airport tax and airport facilities, which was sent to the Minister of Finance, New Delhi, India. Indian Embassy First Secretary Varghese Ghee also addressed the gathering.

Municipality rejects proposal to transform Shuwaikh

THE proposal to transform Shuwaikh industrial area into an area for handicrafts and commercial services which was adopted by the Cabinet in light of recommendations submitted by the Higher Committee for Layout and Constructional projects has not been approved by the Municipal Affairs Committee, a local daily reported.

The committee, in its recent meeting presided over by Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohamed Al Sayed Mohsen Al Rifai, recommended further study of the proposal.

Problems

The committee said that the decision if implemented in its present form will create environmental, traffic and legal problems.

Meanwhile, the committee debated proposals submitted by citizens from the five governorates related to shortcomings in services available in the governorates.

The legal committee at the municipality had discussed the possibility of administering the current slaughterhouse in co-operation with Kuwait Livestock and Transport Company.

An interim report prepared by a specialised company for the establishment of a recycling plant was approved by the committee.

The committee also rejected a project for establishing a plant for the maintenance of batteries, citing environmental reasons. It also banned the issue of licences for free-lance photographers.



Nurses talk health

THE nursing department of the College of Health Sciences participated yesterday in the Ministry of Health's Health Week celebrations at the Sulaibikhat Health Centre. In keeping with the Health Week theme "Let's Talk about Health," nursing students and faculty members of the college encouraged patients attending the health centre to talk to them about nurses' role in health care. They also demonstrated some of the activities nurses undertake.

Health Week activities continue throughout this week at many of the health facilities in Kuwait.

Development plan meeting to be chaired by Awadi today

KUWAIT, April 3. (KUNA): Planning Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi inaugurates tomorrow the second meeting within a series sponsored by the ministry in line with current efforts to outline the next State Development Plan.

Planning Undersecretary and General Co-ordinator of the plan Abdul Hadi Al Awadi said that this meeting will be designed to examine the inclinations of the plan for the years 1990-91 through 1994-95.

The first meeting, held in the form of a seminar, was attended by chairmen of the plan's committee in the various government organs and dealt, from March 13-16, with various planning-oriented matters and emphasised the need to convene such meetings grouping representatives of the social and economic sectors to come up with ideas for resolving key issues.

Sessions

Awadi added in a press statement that the new assembly will hold two work sessions during its two-day deliberations. The first, to be headed by Minister of Finance Jassem Al Khouri, will review the future course of the Kuwaiti economy.

The second work session will be held on Wednesday and will feature the Planning Undersecretary, who will highlight the results of following up the implementation of the current plan and the Planning Minister, head of the session, who will list the elements of the development strategy and aspects of the next plan.

Dr Awadi pointed out that the ministry is on the verge of sponsoring a number of similar meetings during May, to be attended by representatives of the public and the private sectors in order to get the maximum benefit from the conceptual and proposals of the various categories of Kuwaiti society.

Bank holidays

KUWAITI banks are considering a proposal to treat both Thursday and Friday as every week as bank holidays, according to a local daily.

Local banks in this connection may increase their office hours during other working days to compensate for having Thursday off.

The proposal, if approved soon, is expected to become effective following the Eid Al Fitr holiday and will be applicable to all local banks, the daily added.

Adequate supplies to be ensured

Price hikes will not be allowed in Ramadan

A SPECIAL committee has been formed to ensure that adequate consumer products are available at all co-operative societies in Kuwait, according to a senior cooperative official.

In an interview with a local daily, Ali Abu Hadid, chairman of Kuwait's Co-operative Societies Union said that no price increases will be permitted during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Conversely, the union will seek to encourage a reduction in prices during this month and will co-ordinate this issue between suppliers and co-operative societies.

Provisions

Meanwhile, Abdul Aziz Al Othman, chairman of Kuwait Supply Company, was quoted as saying that necessary preparations for providing consumers with requirements such as rice, sugar and powdered milk during this period had been finalised and were sufficient for a further period of six months.

On the purchase of basmati rice, he said that the company is in direct negotiations with the governments of Pakistan and India and that a ship loaded with

Consumer laws insufficient, says official

DR Jamal Al Nakkaas of Kuwait University said at a recent seminar that commercial legislations in Kuwait empowered the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to extend required subsidies to essential consumer items to within reach of needy citizens.

Speaking at the "Consumer Protection in Kuwait Law" seminar organised by the Kuwait University Faculty of Commerce, Nakkaas said that these legislations were insufficient to adequately cover consumer needs. Other countries, he added, are striving to set up a comprehensive set of rules governing this issue from a view-point of protecting interests of needy consumers.

Director of supply and consumer protection at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry Dr Abdulla Ahmed said that the consumer protection concept entails co-operation among authorities.

Several decrees organising the sale of goods at reduced prices, laws governing the purchase and sale of precious metals, and relevant penalties for merchants found violating price controls have been enacted to protect consumers, he said.

The law stipulates that during sales, reductions should not be less than 20 per cent and the profit margin should not exceed 10 per cent, the official continued.

The law stipulates that during sales, reductions should not be less than

SAUDI ARABIA

Assad's consent

DOHA, April 3, (KUNA): Syrian President Hafez Al Assad has agreed to meet with Egyptian leader Mubarak to try and reconcile their differences, press reports said here today.

The Qatar daily *Al-Raya*, published today, said Egypt received an urgent message yesterday carrying President Assad's consent to meet President Mubarak in any Arab capital in the presence of "a third party."

The paper said the message was relayed by "a state" which is mediating to normalise the Egyptian-Syrian relations severed in 1979.

Fighting crime

LONDON, April 3, (AP): Britain and Saudi Arabia agreed yesterday to work closely against terrorism, crime and drug trafficking, the Home Office announced.

Home Secretary Douglas Hurd, visiting Saudi Arabia during a 10-day tour of the Gulf, signed a memorandum of understanding in Riyadh with Saudi Interior Minister Prince Ahmed Bin Abdul Aziz.

A Home Office spokesman said Hurd issued a statement to say he was "glad to carry our cooperation with Saudi Arabia into this new sphere."

Hassan's message

DAMASCUS, April 3, (KUNA): Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdel Latif Al Filali arrived here last night on a four-day visit.

Upon his arrival the Moroccan top diplomat said that he carries a message from Moroccan Monarch King Hassan to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

He added that the visit aims at continuing the dialogue between Syria and Morocco on Arab issues, bilateral relations and opening new horizons of cooperation between the two countries.

Baghdad talks

BAGHDAD, April 3, (AP): King Hussein of Jordan arrived here today on an unannounced visit and immediately went into talks with President Saddam Hussein.

Diplomats said the talks would cover the worsening fighting in Lebanon, developments in the Palestinian issue and Hussein's upcoming trip to Washington.

A Prime Ministry source in Jordan said before Hussein's departure that the King would brief Saddam on a recent ministerial summit of Arab leaders in Egypt.

Mideast discussed

TOKYO, April 3, (KUNA): Visiting Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti and his Japanese counterpart Sosuke Uno today discussed the situation in the Middle East and Asia in addition to bilateral relations, Japanese officials reported.

Andreotti had arrived here yesterday, accompanying Italian Premier Ciriaco de Mita on a five-day official visit in response to an invitation by the Japanese government.

Algerian reactor

ALGIERS, Algeria, April 3, (AP): The first Algerian nuclear research reactor, built under a 1986 technical and scientific agreement with Argentina, was inaugurated this morning in a suburb of Algiers.

Named "Nour" — Arabic for light — the reactor was built under an agreement to promote the training of "technical and scientific staff for fundamental and applied research," the Argentine embassy said.

Zayed briefed

ABU DHABI, April 3, (KUNA): UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan yesterday received head of the PLO's political department Farouk Kaddoumi in the city of Ain.

Kaddoumi said that he briefed Sheik Zayed on the latest developments of the Palestinian question, particularly in regard of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Condemnation

RIYADH, April 3, (KUNA): Saudi Arabia condemned the assassination of the imam and director of Islamic Cultural Centre in Brussels. Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahad.

Al Ahad was killed last Wednesday after he criticised in televised interview Khomeini's death sentence against Salman Rushdie, author of *The Satanic Verses*.

Congratulations

AMMAN, April 3, (AP): King Hussein of Jordan today congratulated PLO chairman Yasir Arafat on his selection as President of the proclaimed Palestinian state.

State-run Radio Jordan said the King sent Arafat "the sincerest greetings and wishes on the occasion of your election as President of the state of Palestine."

Deportation deal likely

Israel paying jailed spy

NEW YORK, April 3, (AP): Israel is paying \$5,000 a month to an American serving a life sentence in a US prison for stealing US government secrets for Israel, according to a published report.

Each month \$5,000 is put in an Israeli bank account for former US intelligence analyst Jonathan Jay Pollard, according to the April 10 issue

of Newsweek magazine.

Newsweek attributed the information to "Territory of Lies," a forthcoming book by Jerusalem Post correspondent Wolf Blitzer.

Blitzer suggests Pollard eventually will make a deal to be deported to Israel, where he'll get the cash, but no intelligence work.

Iraqi Assembly to vote on constitution

BAGHDAD, April 3, (Agencies): Iraq yesterday announced the results of elections to a new Parliament whose priorities will include voting on a revised constitution aimed at broadening democracy.

The government vetted the 910 candidates who ran for the 250 seats in the National Assembly, saying all Iraqis loyal to the principles of the Baathist revolution were eligible.

Only spies, draft dodgers and people convicted of conspiring against the government were excluded, the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) said.

A statement by the supreme electoral committee described the poll, the first since the end of the eight-year war with Iran, as a historic symbol of President Saddam Hussein's efforts to develop democracy.

The statement read over Bagh-

dad Radio mentioned no complaints of electoral irregularities.

It gave no figures for turnout and did not say how many votes each deputy received. More than eight million people were eligible to vote.

Among the 59 deputies chosen in Baghdad was a senior member of the ruling Baath Party, Sa'adi Mehdji Saleh, who is tipped to become the new speaker.

Others elected in the capital

included doctors, university lecturers and former ambassadors and ministers.

The only cabinet minister running, Kurdish State Minister Hashim Hassan Aqawi, failed to win election, it said.

Two ex-cabinet ministers also won seats. They are Hatim Abdul Rashid, a former light industry minister, and Hashim Hassan Tawfiq, who served as finance minister.

Analysts said that Rashid, 43, an American-educated economist who is close to Saddam, was expected to play a major role.

Nearly one-third of the candidates declared themselves as Baath members. Iraq's only party apart from two small Kurdish pro-government groups.

One of the new Parliament's first acts will be to ratify a new constitution allowing other political parties to be set up.



Mosque opens

Muslim women look down on the main prayer hall of the Faith mosque in Eindhoven during the opening ceremony. This is the largest mosque in the Netherlands.

Islamic movement emerges as a force

Ruling party sweeps to victory

TUNIS, April 3, (Reuter): Tunisia's ruling party won all 141 seats in parliamentary elections yesterday, dashing opposition hopes that under their new liberal President they could break the monopoly of power it has held for more than 30 years.

The two main opposition groups, the left-of-centre Movement of Socialist Democrats (MDS) and a loose alliance of Muslim militants, disputed the result, saying the authorities practised the same abuses as under former President Habib Bourguiba.

"We have established that there were grave irregularities but we are still taking stock," Islamic leader Rached Ghannouchi said shortly after the last result came out today.

The Islamic movement, standing in four-fifths of the electoral districts, won 13.6 per cent of all the valid votes, while the MDS trailed a poor third with 3.7 per cent.

In centres such as Tunis, its suburb of Ben Arous and the southern towns of Gafsa and Gabes, the Muslim militants polled more than 25 per cent of the vote.

A simultaneous presidential election took place yesterday in which Ben Ali was the only candidate. More than 98 per cent of those who voted gave him a new five-year mandate.

Bourguiba did not allow multi-party elections from independence in 1956 until 1981. Tunisian officials have since said he gave orders that no opposition candidates should win.

The MDS and the members of the Islamic movement, who stood as independents because they have no recognised party, said that in yesterday's election the ruling Democratic Constitutional Union (RCD) intimidated voters, influenced electoral officers and contrived to remove their observers from the polling stations.

The Islamic movement, standing in four-fifths of the electoral districts, won 13.6 per cent of all the valid votes, while the MDS trailed a poor third with 3.7 per cent.

In centres such as Tunis, its suburb of Ben Arous and the southern towns of Gafsa and Gabes, the Muslim militants polled more than 25 per cent of the vote.

Pak blamed

Kabul seeks council meeting

KABUL, April 3, (Agencies): Afghanistan today called for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss alleged Pakistani military aggression, and help find a peaceful solution to the civil war with Muslim guerrillas.

Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil disclosed the request at a news conference before boarding a plane for New York. He said this is the first time Afghanistan has sought a Security Council session on the matter.

Wakil said he was carrying a letter from Afghan President Najibullah informing UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar of Pakistani military intervention in Afghanistan.

"The aggression and the military intervention of Pakistan is increasing every day," he told reporters.

Neighboring Pakistan acknowledging arming and harbouring rebel fighters but denies direct involvement in the Afghan war.

Najibullah has also invited the UN chief to visit Afghanistan and help find a diplomatic solution to the conflict which has pitted the pro-Soviet Afghan government against an alliance of Muslim rebels.

The plan, which Shamir detailed to leaders of the rival Labour Party, is linked to obtaining a truce from the Palestinians in their 13-month uprising against Israeli military occupation.

But Shamir's plan falls far short of Palestinian demands. He opposes any talks with the PLO and is offering only limited autonomy instead of the independent statehood demanded by Palestinians.

Yossi Ben Aharon, a top Shamir adviser, said Israel would refuse even indirect talks with the PLO. The United States might offer.

Election

"We are not ready for indirect talks with the PLO through the United States and this we'll make totally clear to the American government," Ben Aharon said.

Under Shamir's proposal, the 1.7 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would elect representatives to negotiate an interim settlement for local self-rule, said Aharon.

Ben Aharon said such negotiators can either be named by Egypt, Jordan and Palestinians and approved by Israel, or elected. As to elections, he said on Israeli television: "We have several options, municipal elections or those defined from the beginning as to choose leadership for negotiations."

"If the PLO would want to torpedo it, it would continue to stay. If it would want to allow, make this process easier, we don't care. We'll try to reach this aim with or without PLO cooperation," he added.

Once a self-government plan is agreed upon, a second round of polling could be held in the disputed lands and Palestinians would select their representatives to a local governing council, Aharon said.

During the five-year autonomy period, Israeli troops would be withdrawn from "major population centres" and redeployed in specified security areas. The exact sites of the pullbacks would be subject to negotiation, Aharon said.

"You can't in one night jump from uncertainty, arrests and deportation to peaceful coexistence. We need the first stage, an interim arrangement, to pass the responsibility as much as possible to (Palestinian) leaders or chosen representatives," Ben Aharon said.

A new element in Shamir's plan is the proposal to have elections before the terms for self-rule are negotiated. The Camp David accord call for elections only after autonomy is implemented.

Shamir promised Jewish settlers in the occupied territories he would never abandon them despite strong pressures on Israel.

Powerful forces are at work against Israel and it is up to us to prevent these pressures. We must be prepared and united against the PLO," Shamir told the 70,000 Jews of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday.

Shamir offering old wine in new bottle

Two-stage elections to be proposed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 3, (Agencies): Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir heads for Washington today bearing old ideas for solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Officials close to Shamir said yesterday the prime minister would urge the Bush administration to back a role in peace talks for moderate Palestinians without ties to the PLO.

"It's an old plan which we still think is the best way to achieve peace," Shamir aide Yossi Ahimeir said.

He was referring to the Camp David accords which led to the 1979 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and which call for Palestinian autonomy in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Kissinger criticised

Position softened on PLO-Israel dialogue

him should start now, and even the moderate labourites largely (41 per cent) not wanting talks now.

Seventy-two per cent said they saw no contradiction between the Army's widely-condemned handling of the Palestinian revolt and so-called democratic traditions.

Yet only 14 per cent believed the brutal tactics should continue, one of several anomalies the New York Times/Hanoch Smith Centre poll left unexplained.

Forty per cent approved of the US-PLO dialogue while 49 per cent disapproved.

Forty-seven per cent of those asked said the US — which gives Israel \$3 billion annually — has the right to try to influence Israeli policy. 48 per cent said it does not.

Thirty-eight per cent would consider deporting all the Palestinians from the occupied territories if peace could not be found while 51 per cent oppose.

Seventy per cent said they believed the Israeli Arabs would conduct mass killings of Jews if they were able to.

Meanwhile, Bassam Abu Sharif, a senior PLO official who played a key role in Yasser Arafat's dramatic "peace-reconciliation" declarations, has assailed former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger for his "cruel" against the Palestinians.

Responding to a recent Washington Post article by Kissinger, Abu Sharif wrote in the same publication that the Palestinian objective is far less than claimed by the former US official.

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Sudan presses ahead to nullify pact with Egypt

CAIRO, April 3, (Reuter): Sudan is pressing ahead with legal procedures to nullify a 12-year-old defence pact with Egypt, a senior Sudanese embassy official said today.

"The defence pact has been abrogated. It has not been taken to Parliament yet but all legal procedures will be taken shortly," the diplomat said.

Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi announced in Khartoum on Saturday that the pact, signed in 1976 by the late Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and deposed Sudan-

ese强人Jaafar Nimeiri, was cancelled.

Under a peace accord signed between rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Democratic Unionist Party, a partner in Sudan's governing coalition, all military pacts linking Sudan with foreign countries should be abrogated.

The peace accord has since been adopted by the Sudanese government whose troops have been fighting the rebels in south Sudan since 1983.

Meanwhile, with a thumbs up sign, the UN

official heading the massive effort to stave off starvation in southern Sudan today saw off a 22-truck convoy of relief food, the operation's largest to date.

The trucks, flying blue and white United Nations flags, rolled out of Kenya's capital under a sunny sky carrying an estimated 500 metric tons of maize.

They were the first of 60 trucks scheduled to leave Kenya today and tomorrow

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

IMAGINATION is more important than knowledge
Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879-1955).

Plight of Sudanese

Fleeing in vain

By Robert Powell

JUBA, Sudan. (Reuters): Sudanese refugees from starvation, disease and a pitiless war have fled in vain to this southern town, where hunger stalks even the hospitals and rebels are tightening a months-old siege.

Up to two thirds of Juba's 175,000 refugees suffer from malnutrition, estimates David Yaka at the government hospital, which is desperately short of drugs and rips up sheets to use as bandages.

"We can't feed our patients," said Yaka, the senior medical officer.

"It is deplorable to call this a hospital."

Bees infest the sagging ceilings of grimy wards, mosquito netting on the windows is in tatters. Flies buzz near the 350 patients who lie listlessly on bare mattresses.

In this strategic town on the Nile, riddled with malaria, jaundice, tuberculosis and cirrhosis of the liver, some beds at the hospital lie empty. Patients must bring and cook their own food and many are unable to.

Juba, the south's capital, is surrounded by Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels buoyed by a string of victories in recent weeks.

The town relies entirely on airlifts from Khartoum, Kenya and Uganda to avoid starvation.

But only the refugees, crowded into grass huts and makeshift tents on the outskirts of this dusty town, are fed free by the international relief agencies that organise many of the flights.

The 100,000 townspersons must pay sky-high prices for maize flown in commercially from Khartoum. There is not a grain to spare.

Two of the 450 prisoners at Juba's crowded jail died of hunger last month, said Sam Kenyi, manager of the Combined Agencies relief team.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has just offered to supply the hospital with food, but that will only solve one of Dr Yaka's many problems.

There is seldom electricity and the water comes from a single handpump.

A dog covered with open sores lies dying in the compound. "It could well be rabid," Yaka said.

The thin refugees, dressed in rags, are mostly peasants from the surrounding countryside who have poured into Juba since 1986.

The SPLA has been fighting a bush war since 1983 to end what it sees as domination of the Christian and animist south by the Muslim and Arabised north.

Juba's Roman Catholic cathedral dwarfs the minaret of the main mosque.

Refugees say both government soldiers and the rebels have burned and looted their villages and that even in Juba they are not safe.

The inhabitants of Lologo camp on the southern edge of Juba have had to move three times in the past year to escape SPLA raids, which penetrate even closer to the town itself.

"The SPLA come at night. They are looting," said Hilary Obur, a 19-year-old secondary school pupil who fled his home near Torit, 135 km (80 miles) to the east.

"They are just looking for money, clothes, bicycles, even radios," he said.

"They say they don't come to kill, but they need property because they don't have clothes," said Alphonse Ochieng, another refugee, as he took a break from conducting choir practice under a mango tree by the river.

"The war in this country is a very long war. It started in the days of slavery," said Paulino Lukudu Lororo, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Juba.

"It is a racial war, it is religious, it is political, it is economic," he said.

He is one of many southerners who want south Sudan to become an independent state.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi, who on Wednesday announced a new government in Khartoum, has said he now wants to negotiate a peace after two years of refusing to talk to the rebels.

An estimated 250,000 southerners died of hunger last year and the United Nations reckons a further 100,000 could starve to death in 1989. Fatima Duku is one of several refugees who brave minefields around Juba to cut firewood in the bush to sell in the market.

Her eight children cannot live on their maize ration of 300 grammes each per day, she says.

"If we don't sell the firewood, we have to come home and there is no food for the children so they cry," she said with quiet resignation.

Press review

Very important visit

KUWAIT, (KUNA): A Kuwaiti newspaper said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's current visit to Washington is very important for the Middle East peace process.

"The meeting between President Mubarak and the American President (George) Bush should produce positive elements that would go in line with the new variables and developments" in the region, Al Rai Al Aam said, commenting editorially on Mubarak's trip to Washington.

The paper emphatically warned that ignoring those "effective and realistic" variables would lead to further turmoil and disturbance in the Middle East region and block any potential progress toward a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Al Rai Al Aam, meanwhile, renewed its attack on Israel stressing that the Jewish state had repeatedly proven it was against peace and is now stalling and maneuvering to block peace moves.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1581 -- England's Queen Elizabeth I knights Sir Francis Drake.
- 1611 -- Denmark's King Christian IV declares war on Sweden.
- 1618 -- Cardinal Richelieu is ordered into exile in Avignon for intrigues with France's Queen Mother Marie de Medici.
- 1660 -- England's King Charles II issues declaration of Breda, promising religious tolerance.
- 1827 -- Note is sent by Russia, France and Britain to Sultan of Turkey urging truce in war with Greece.
- 1844 -- Germany occupies South-West Africa. Togoland and Cameroons.
- 1912 -- Chinese republic is proclaimed in Tibet.
- 1919 -- Soviet republic is established in Bavaria.
- 1933 -- U.S. Navy dirigible Akron falls into Atlantic Ocean off New Jersey, taking 73 lives.
- 1942 -- Japanese naval forces sink three British warships in Bay of Bengal during World War II.
- 1949 -- North Atlantic Treaty is signed in Washington by foreign ministers of United States, Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Italy, Portugal, Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Canada for mutual assistance against aggression in North Atlantic.
- 1959 -- Ivory Coast signs series of agreements with Niger, Upper Volta and Dahomey to form Sahel-Benin Union.
- 1964 -- Archbishop Makarios abrogates 1960 treaty between Greece, Turkey and Cyprus, and heavy fighting erupts in northwest Cyprus.
- 1969 -- Doctors in Houston, Texas, hospital implant first complete artificial heart in 47-year-old man, who dies four days later.
- 1986 -- Israel formally asks for access to United Nations war crimes commission file on former Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim.
- 1988 -- Iran hammers Iraq's vital oil centres with missiles and fighter-bombers.

Last Jews in Kabul keep their faith, adhere to edict

By Earleen Fisher

KABUL, (AP): The last six Jewish men in Kabul gathered shortly before sunset in the small, second-storey room that serves as their synagogue.

Rocking on his heels in front of a black and gold curtain concealing the Torah scrolls, 18-year-old Benjamin Gul stood at the small altar and raised his clear voice in the Hebrew language of the Jewish faith.

He paused. At his side, his twin brother, Asher, took up the singsong chant.

From the white-cushioned wooden benches along the wall came the murmured reading of the twins' 35-year-old brother, Haron, 65-year-old Savi Yona and 50-year-old Isaac Levi and his 18-year-old son, Bara.

All read at their own pace, for there is no longer the minyan of 10 men required for formal worship.

The six said they were the only Jewish

men left in Kabul, except for one who went away on a business trip and would return in a few days.

The last rabbi departed three years ago for England.

About five million Afghans — a third of the country's population — have fled the country during a decade of war between the Soviet-style government and Muslim guerrillas. Kabul's previous population has doubled to an estimated two million because of refugees from other parts of the country.

The Jews of Kabul preserve their faith and adhere to dietary laws and the ban against working on shabbat, the Jewish sabbath that starts at sundown Friday and lasts until sundown Saturday.

A few minutes before sunset last Friday, Benjamin Gul pushed a light switch, and bulbs suspended from the ceiling flickered dimly to life.

With a slight smile, the slim teenager said, "We won't break shabbat." Referring to the Jewish prohibition against

any form of work during that time, he said: "We turn on the electricity, and by morning it is gone by itself."

The synagogue on the street of flower selling, like much of Kabul, receives electricity for just a few hours in early morning and evening.

Most of the Jewish community that numbered about 100 people a few years ago has gone — to Israel, the United States and Europe.

The handful of stragglers live close to each other in the Char-e-Nau neighbourhood of central Kabul.

About half reside in the white-washed building that contains the synagogue. Its plaster latticework of six-pointed Stars of David faces the now-closed West German Goethe Institute Cultural Centre across the narrow, muddy street.

"No one bothers us. The only thing we are worried about is military service," said Gul. He, his twin brother, and the other 18-year-old will soon finish high school at the Lycee Esteghlal, a school

once operated by the French. They will then be eligible for military duty.

The twin's older brother, Haron Gul, has already completed three years of military service for the Afghan government. He has not married; there is no one left in Kabul who can be his bride.

The only Jewish women in Kabul are his mother, his sister — a 14-year-old Soraya and 13-year-old Marjan — and Soraya Yona's wife.

Haron Gul, however, holds a passport and has made three business trips abroad, returning each time to take care of his family and run a textile shop that supports it.

"Perhaps I can go abroad again and find a bride," he said as his brother Benjamin translated Kabul's Dari Persian to English. Then he added, quietly and without conviction: "Someone who would come to Afghanistan."

Relatives abroad send some of the articles used in the practice of Judaism. Gilt-trimmed skullcaps worn by Jew-

ish men came from Israel. As did the framed Hebrew texts hanging on the walls.

Matzoh, the unleavened bread required for the seder feast of Passover later this month, arrived from relatives in Switzerland.

The Kabul Jews eat chicken and fish.

No one remains who is authorised to kill cattle and sheep in the manner dictated by Jewish law.

The Jews spoke willingly with a reporter and two photographers, recalling earlier days when tourists still came to Kabul and foreign Jews joined the shabat service.

Asked at the outset if the visit by the journalists would cause them trouble with authorities, they said: "No."

However, they acknowledge that police might come later to ask what the foreigners wanted to know.

That's a worry that Kabul's Muslims and Jews often share.

Simply stunning

By Christopher Hanson

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): US Soviet-watchers are astonished by the drubbing Communist Party conservatives suffered in the Soviet elections and say the results are likely to help Kremlin Chief Mikhail Gorbachev's reform programme.

The official US reaction was more cautious, at least initially, with the Bush administration welcoming a more open Soviet system and Secretary of State James Baker saying only that he doubted Gorbachev would regret the vote results.

State Department officials cautioned over excessive enthusiasm about changes in the Soviet system.

"It is a one-party state and not all elections were contested," one official said.

But among private analysts, even conservatives who have been sceptical about Gorbachev's reforms expressed amazement at the returns from the elections and said the vote was a highly significant, positive development.

"The Sovietology community is stunned," said Alice Young, a Soviet affairs expert at the conservative Centre for Strategic and International Studies who runs a computer research network for scholars.

Virtually no one had expected rebel communist, Boris Yeltsin to garner 89 per cent of the vote against an officially backed opponent, she said, adding: "People who had put up with abuse from the party for so long have stood up to be counted."

The first contested Soviet elections in 70 years — a major plank in Gorbachev's reform platform — shook communist organisations from the Pacific island of Sakhalin to the western Ukraine.

The city chiefs of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Lvov, Minsk and Kishinev were among the victims.

"It really is historic," said Georgetown University's Thane Gustafson, a specialist in Soviet politics. "It's an extraordinary slap in the face of the ruling party at every level."

Dmitri Simes, a Soviet-watcher at the Carnegie Endowment think tank, said in an interview: "The Communist Party apparatus has been challenged for the first time, but not destroyed, not shattered."

It was unclear how many of the reformers elected in the poll would survive the second stage of selection for membership in a reconstituted Supreme Soviet that will meet continuously and is expected to have some genuine legislative power.

Gustafson predicted that many of the strongest reformers, including Yeltsin, would never serve in the Supreme Soviet.



Filipino rebels beset with problems

Communists shifting back toward a rural-based strategy

By Robert H. Reid

MANILA, (AP): Communist rebels have suffered major setbacks since President Corazon Aquino took power and are struggling to forge a new strategy against a popular government as the "people's war" enters its 21st year.

There is evidence the Communist Party of the Philippines is shifting back toward a rural-based strategy after the failure of its urban campaign and is becoming more selective in recruiting after military agents infiltrated its ranks.

But officials and political commentators believe the party's armed wing, the New People's Army, will remain a serious threat as long as the pro-Western government is unable to improve the lives of the millions who live in abject poverty.

"Today at the national level, the insurgents appear to be on the defensive and attempting to regroup," Rear Adm. Timothy W. Wright, acting US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, told a US congressional committee last February.

"In the provinces, however, where the struggle is primarily waged, the picture is less clear," he added.

Assessing the strength of the rebellion is difficult, since most of the activity takes place in remote areas where communications are poor. Much of the information available in the capital on rebel activity comes from the 160,000-member armed forces of the Philippines.

Nonetheless, there is a public perception, especially in Manila, that the insurgency has weakened since a popular uprising toppled President Ferdinand Marcos' authoritarian administration in February 1986.

Rebel propaganda portrays Aquino as no different from Marcos. But most Filipinos still support her and do not blame her personally for her government's shortcomings.

Without going into statistics, there is a feeling in the population that the insurgency is in disarray, military Chief of Staff Gen. Renato Villa said in an interview with the Philippines Free Press magazine. "I think the most important development is the realization that is spreading that the insurgent alternative is not that palatable."

That perception has arisen despite military reports that fighting actually escalated in 1988, from 3,118 clashes in 1987 to 3,525 year.

Areas reporting increased fighting include southern districts of Luzon, the main island, and the Davao and Misamis Oriental provinces on Mindanao.

The military says more than 3,900 people, including guerrillas, government troopers and civilians, were killed last year in "insurgency-related incidents," a 1.63 per cent increase over 1987.

The military also acknowledges that guerrillas influence nearly 8,000 of the 41,000 villages and urban wards. Rebels operate in about 65 of the 73 provinces.

But the military also claims guerrilla strength declined by 8.4 per cent last year to about 23,000 fighters. Western sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, suspect this may be simply a refinement in the military's estimate, which was too high during Marcos' final years.

In his testimony, Wright noted the favourable military reports but said there was no way to verify them "nor are they conclusive of a significant or lasting setback" to the rebels.

Clearly, however, the Communist Party has suffered reverses. They include the arrests in the past year of eight members of its central committee, including secretary-general Rafael Baylosis, and more than 30 regional and provincial officers.

Western sources with close ties to the military say the arrests were made because government informants penetrated senior party ranks during the final years of the Marcos administration when membership rolls swelled.

Despite rebel attempts to win foreign support, both Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping have personally assured Aquino they will not support the insurgents. The rebels acknowledge their main source of weapons comes from raids on government

BUSINESS & FINANCE

More incentives needed

Gulf urged to discourage capital outflows

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

DR HENRY AZAM, chief economist of Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank (GIB), urged the Gulf states to match the incentives offered by leading international financial markets to discourage capital outflows.

The regional capital markets in their present form cannot compete with the more efficient international marketplaces because they lack depth and versatility, Azam yesterday told an economic conference in Kuwait.

Institutions

He suggested local debt and equity markets increase the supply of shares and the flow of debt instruments, and

encourage a wider participation in secondary market activities.

Azam also called for more stringent financial reporting practices and said intermediary institutions should be set up to provide investors with reliable business information. These measures, he said, should be accompanied by a legal system that recognises the rights of creditors and protects those of savers and investors.

Billions of dollars in Gulf states surplus funds have been siphoned off for investment abroad.

According to International Monetary Fund statistics the six GCC countries' total net investment abroad is estimated at about \$342 billion out of which the public sector accounts for \$180 billion. But the diversity of such investments, lack of sys-

tematic accounting and the involvement of financial intermediaries makes the magnitude of these investments difficult to pin down.

Supporting his call for upgrading the regional financial markets Azam cited the example of Saudi Arabia's private sector which repatriated between 1982 and 1988 \$16.7 billion out of its net foreign assets abroad of \$80 billion. This was mainly in response to the improving investment opportunities but also to ease the liquidity in the country.

Decisions

Azam called for quick decisions warning that time is running out in the race to develop local capital markets due to dramatic progress made by international marketplaces. "The leading interna-

marketplaces have made dramatic progress in recent years," he said.

Azam pointed out that industrial countries are not entirely free of blame for capital outflows from the Arab world. "Industrial countries cannot criticise developing countries for losing capital when at the same time they have in place policies designed to attract capital away from these countries," he said.

Arab countries outside the Gulf with stringent exchange controls have been more hurt by capital outflows. He urged those countries to either let their currencies float freely to mirror the country's economic performance or at least ensure that the currency does not become over-valued.

He also prescribed positive interest rates and sound fiscal policies.

G-7 committed to stabilise dollar

Debt relief plan gets major boost

WASHINGTON, April 3. (AP): Seven leading industrialised nations have endorsed a new US debt relief plan for the Third World, clearing the way for US officials to push its approval by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

The endorsement yesterday by America's major allies was the first step in a sales strategy put together by the administration of President George Bush. US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady takes the proposal before meetings today and tomorrow of the steering committees of the 151-nation IMF and the World Bank.

The IMF and World Bank play key roles in implementation of the new debt relief approach, which the administration hopes will shave the current debt burden by 20 per cent.

The endorsement was contained in a joint communique issued by the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy following almost eight hours of closed-door discussions yesterday between Brady and finance officials from the seven countries.

Relief

"Debt strategy should be strengthened by placing greater emphasis on voluntary debt relief and debt service reduction in agreement with the commercial banks as a complement to new lending," the finance ministers said.

Brady said he was pleased with the endorsement, saying it was usually detailed on what appro-



Nicholas Brady

ches now need to be taken and very specific on the need for prompt action by the international lending agencies.

"There was broad support for strengthening the debt strategy along the lines of the US proposals," Brady told reporters after the meeting ended.

A senior treasury official, who briefed reporters, said that while the communique did not mention specific support to be provided by other countries, he expected such announcement would be made later in the week. The administration is looking for the United States to do more to reduce its huge budget deficits and said countries, such as Japan, which were running large trade surpluses, should continue to promote domestic demand in order to provide markets for foreign goods.

The administration has estimated that over the next three years the Brady plan could wipe out about \$70 billion of the \$240 billion in debt owed by 39 of the most heavily indebted countries.

The IMF and World Bank would be expected to contribute together between \$20 billion and \$25 billion to back the debt reduction effort with the United States looking to Japan and other countries running large trade surpluses to assist in the effort by making new loans.

US officials have indicated that Mexico, Venezuela and the Philippines likely would be among the first beneficiaries of any debt relief strategy.

Two-tier rouble currency system under review

MOSCOW, April 3. (Reuter): Soviet economists are discussing introducing a second tier of rouble for external trade as a step towards making the Soviet currency convertible with those of the West, a senior Kremlin economic adviser said today.

The second, exchangeable rouble could be at least partly based on the gold standard and the Soviet Union's hard currency reserves, Abel Aganbegyan told reporters in Moscow at the end of a three-day international conference on the world economy.

He did not explain the relationship such a rouble would have with the current non-convertible rouble nor did he give details of how it could be introduced.

But he said a decision to take such a step would depend on agreement with Western banking circles.

"Some assessments say it will take from seven to 10 years to make the rouble convertible. Lately we have heard about another way — establishing a second currency — a Soviet rouble for external transactions," Aganbegyan said.

One place the second rouble could be used would be the special economic zones under consideration as a way to attract foreign investment to certain

regions of the Soviet Union, Aganbegyan said. "But the existence of two roubles would be abnormal and could not last," he said. "Finally we would have to introduce a fully convertible currency."

The lack of currency that can be readily exchanged with the West has hindered the Soviet Union's trade.

Last year the Communist Party's ruling Politburo affirmed its intention to gradually move toward convertibility as part of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's economic reforms.

The desire to obtain foreign capital through joint ventures with Western companies has made convertibility more urgent because without being able to exchange profits made in the bloc firms have little incentive to invest there.

But many economists have warned that the rouble should not be floated until the Soviet economy was strong enough to avoid a sharp devaluation.

Aganbegyan said the Soviet Union had a second, convertible currency in the 1920s, under Lenin's new economic policy which lifted many of the strictures of the Soviet economy and encouraged more international trade.



Dr Hisham Khatib pictured with OAPEC's department directors

Minister meets OAPEC officials

Jordan's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Dr Hisham Khatib visited the general secretariat of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) yesterday.

Department directors at the

secretariat welcomed the minister on behalf of the acting secretary-general, Abdelaziz Al Wattan.

Discussions covered the Arab Energy Conference, since the minister will chair the 5th such conference

scheduled to be held in Amman in 1992.

Other matters discussed included the future of Arab oil, energy conservation, and environmental issues. The minister expressed his optimism about the future of Arab oil.

Government Warning: Smoking is a major cause of cancer and diseases of the lungs, heart and arteries.

UK shares mixed

Dollar dives, gold gains

LONDON, April 3. (Reuters): The dollar ended lower in Europe today as investors remained wary of possible action by leading central banks to keep the currency stable, dealers said.

The Group of Seven industrialised nations had said at the end of a meeting in Washington yesterday that a rise or sharp fall in the dollar would be counter-productive.

That statement was quickly followed by the Bank of Japan selling dollars for yen — apparently the first such open market intervention for three years — and the Bank of England selling dollars for pounds sterling.

West Germany's Bundesbank also sold a modest \$9.2 million for marks at the midday setting of the mark/collar rate in Frankfurt at 1,8917 marks, dealers said.

There will be another run at 1.90 (marks) this week after last week's try failed," said one dealer in Frankfurt. "And that means central banks will have to try much harder if they want to slow the dollar's rise."

Higher

The dollar closed in London at 1,8810 West German marks and 132 Japanese yen after ending on Friday at 1,8925 and 132.65.

Stock values got off to a strong start on Wall Street with the Dow Jones industrial average up 11.92 points at 2,305.54 by midday in New York.

London shares ended mixed

Oman negotiating 10-year gas sale deal

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP): The Sultanate of Oman is currently negotiating a 10-year export contract involving 224 billion cubic feet of gas. Oman-based oil industry sources reported today.

The sources, who spoke by telephone on condition they not be named, said that the gas exports would start in 1992 but would not give any other details.

According to an earlier press report, the deal involves feeding the world's first floating methanol plant due to come on stream in the Arabian Sea of Oman by 1991.

The plant would produce 2,200 tons of methanol per day for export to the US and Europe.

Invited

Tenders for the plant reportedly have been invited from the UK's Davy Corporation, Kellogg of the United States and Mitsubishi of Japan, with a deadline of mid-May.

Oman is a moderate oil producer of 600,000 barrels per day but oil revenues form the backbone of its economy.

It is not a member of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries but co-operates closely with the organisation.

In 1984, Oman launched a gas exploration programme.

Shell appoints new ad agency

SHELL International Petroleum Co. Ltd., together with its two local partners, Al Jomaih in Riyadh, and Saudi Arabian Markets in Jeddah, have appointed a new advertising agency in Saudi Arabia to handle the business of their two joint venture lubricant companies, Al Jomaih and Shell Lubricating Oil Company Ltd. (JOSLOC) and Saudi Arabian Markets and Shell Lubricants Company Ltd. (SASLUBCO).

The appointment followed a thorough and detailed review process which involved five of the top advertising agencies in Saudi Arabia — Al Bayan Advertising, Team Advertising and Marketing, Afkar

Promoseven, Intermarkets, Publographics.

Each agency was given five weeks to prepare their presentations from a 27 page brief covering both above and below the line promotions.

The presentations were held in Riyadh at the Alkhazama Hotel last month.

Seven senior executives from Shell and the joint venture companies judged each individual agency against the brief from a 90 minute presentation. Their individual assessments were accumulated and used to rank the agencies from one to five.

The overall winner, and the appointed agency, is Publographics.



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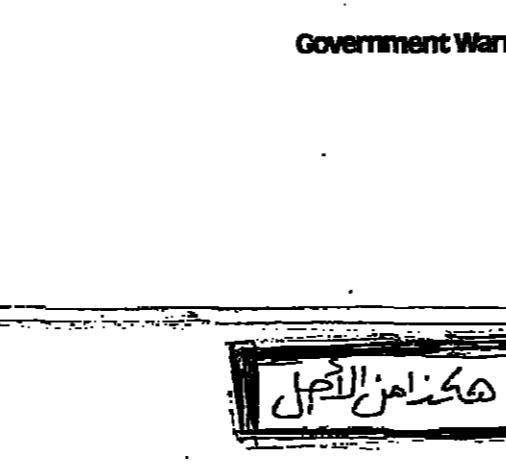
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LONDON
(Alpha Stocks)

10 of 10

INI	222/
INCHCAPE	262/
JAGUAR	315/
KINGFISHR	270/

LADBROKE 545/
571/

LONDON (Alpha Stocks)		INI	222/0	LONDON (Beta Stocks)		
NAME	LAST	LAND SEC'S	262/0	NAME	CLOSE	OPEN
ABBEY LFE	317/0	LAPORTE	434/0	2ND ALICE	862/0	861/0
ADT LTD	157/0	LASHO	448/0	600 GROUP	125/0	124/0
ALD LYONS	448/2	LEGAL+GEN	320/0	A.AMER TS	420/0	420/0
AMSTRAD	139/0	LONRHO	321/0	A.B.ELECT	444/0	443/0
ARGYLL GP	185/0	LUCAS IND	603/0	A.S.W.HLD	267/4	268/0
ASDA GP	146/4	MAGNET	304/0	AAB KENT	102/0	102/0
BAA	344/0	MARKS+SP	159/0	AAH HLD	387/0	386/0
BTR	374/0	MAXWELL C	214/0	AARONSON	117/0	117/0
BAT INDS	572/0	MB GROUP	279/0	ADDISON	41.5	40.5
BARCLAYS	442/0	NECCA LEI	193.0	ADWEST	178/0	178/0
BASS	913/0	MEPC	560.0	ALEXON	390/0	390/0
BEAZER	196/0	NEXT	147/0	ALLD COLL	137/0	137/0
BEECHAMS	611/0	P & O DFD	660/0	ALLD TR B	295/0	296/0
BERISFORD	152/0	PEARL	427/0	ALLD LDN	147/0	146/0
BICC PLC	500/0	PEARSON	712/0	ALLD PART	75/0	75/0
BLUE ARR	91/0	PILKINGTON	265/0	ALLIANCE	971/0	969/0
BLUE CIRC	547/0	PLESSEY	249/0	AMBER DAY	54/0	54/0
BOC GP	510/0	POLLY PEC	317/2	AMEC	438/0	438/0
BOOTS CO	272/0	RACAL ELC	394/0	AMER TST	134/0	133/4
BPB INDS	254.0	RACAL TEL	340/0	AMERSHAM	496/4	494/0
BR COMM	204/0	RANK HVIS	396/0	AMI HLTHC	374/0	374/0
BR AIRWAY	201/0	RANK ORG	899.0	ANGLIA TV	268/0	267/0
BR AEROSP	555.0	RCKITT+CO	080/0	ANSBACHER	77/0	77/0
BR GAS RG	178/0	REDLAND	524/0	APPLEYARD	457/0	458/0
BR LAND	369/0	REED	416/0	APV PLC	150/4	151/0
B.P.	285/0	RMC GRP	671/0	ASHLEY LA	109/0	110/0
B.P.PP	180/0	REUTERS	690/0	AUS REE A	251/0	250/0
BR STEEL	81/4	RTZ CORP.	519/0	AUST REED	395/0	395/0
BR TELCOM	277/0	ROLLS ROY	183/0	AUTO SECS	298/0	296/0
BURNAH OL	540/0	ROTHMAN B	502.0	AVDEL PLC	99/4	99/0
BURTON	210/0	ROYAL INS	414/0	AVESCO	147/0	148/0
CABLE&WIR	485/0	SAATCHI	288/0	AVIS EUR	374/0	373/0
CADBURYS	342/0	SAINSBURY	223/0	AVON RUBB	629/0	627/0
CALOR GRP	384.0	SCOT+NEW	312/0	B.WENMILL	245/0	243/0
CRLTN COM	905/0	SEARS	121/0	BAILL JAP	525/0	526/0
CRLTN R T	905.0	SEDGEWICK	243.0	BAILL SHI	92/0	92/0
COOKSONS	312/0	SHELL	388/0	BAIRD (W)	241/0	242/0
COURTAULD	297/0	SIEBE	462.0	BANK IRE	294/0	294/0
DALGETY	352/0	SLOUGH ES	317/0	BANKER IT	87/4	87/0
DIXONS	156.0	STD.CHART	533/0	BARDON GP	166/0	166/0
ENG CHINA	530/0	STC	311/0	BARRT DEV	201/0	200/0
ENTER OIL	533/0	STORENSE	178/0	BAYNES C.	32/0	33/0
EKI BABCK	172/0	SUN ALLIA	167/4	BBA GROUP	185/0	186/0
FERRANTI	104/2	SUN LIFE	910/0	BEAR BRAND	10/6	10/6
FISONS	295/0	TARMAC	305/0	BEATTIE J	164/0	163/0
GATEWAY	164/0	TATE&LYLE	230/0	BELHAVEN	48/0	49/0
GEN ACCID	965/0	TYLR WOOD	630/0	BELLWAY	241/0	236/0
GEN ELEC	234/0	TRAF HSE	365/0	BEMROSE	248/0	248/0
GLAXO	345/0	TSB	116/0	BENLOX HD	61/0	62/0
GRANADA	388/0	T + N	213/0	BERKELEY	243/0	244/0
LOGE	165/4	TRUSTHSE	286/0	BHN GROUP	127/0	124/0
GLYNWED	320/0	ULTRAMAR	297/0	BK OF SCO	99/0	99/0
GUARD RYL	208/0	UNILEVER	525/0	BLCK LE 2	13/4	13/2
KHL	363.0	UNIGATE	346/0	BM GROUP	452/0	450/0
GUINNESS	434/0	UTD NWSPR	453.0	BINNELL +F	105/0	105/0
HIMMERSH A	775.0	WELLCOME	468/0	BOASE MAS	310.0	312.0
JANSON	187/4	WHTBRD IN	338/0	BODDINGTON	171/0	170/0
MARRISN C	750/0	WILLIAMS	275/0	BODY SHOP	526/0	525/0
WKER SID	648.0	WILLIS FB	230/0	BOOT HENR	460/0	463/0
ILLSDOWN	270/0	WIMPEY GE	286/0	BORTHWICK	39/0	40/0

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-QR	PREV-YR
FT 30 ORD	1706.5	1707.9 1686.7	1707.9	1455.3
FT 500 SHR	0	1169.5 1169.5	1182.7	1008.8
FT ALL SHR	1076.15	1076.15 1065.26	1076.15	926.59
FT GOV SEC	86.81	87.30 87.36	87.30	87.03
FT GOLD MN	190.9	190.2 190.6	190.2	161.9
FT MINES F	653.25	653.25 648.70	653.25	565.31
FT OIL	1978.9	1978.9 1953.6	1978.9	1725.4
FT WLD DLR	142.34	141.17 141.17	141.17	139.21
FT WLD STG	125.02	123.81 123.81	123.81	115.30
FT WLD LOC	130.70	129.77 129.77	129.77	123.40

London Stock Market Report

UK STOCKS MIXED IN QUIET TRADING

LONDON, APRIL 3, REUTER - SHARE PRICES WERE MIXED IN LOW STREET GAVE NO EXTRA IMPETUS TO TRADING HERE.

INITIAL WEAKNESS ON A LOWER POUND AND EX-DIVIDEND TRADING IN NUMBER OF INDEX STOCKS WAS REVERSED WITH NEWS BEECHAM IS INVOLVED IN MERGER TALKS WITH THE U.S.'S SMITHKLINE BECKMAN. BEECHAM WAS 20P FIRMER AT 614.

DEALERS SAID THE MARKET WAS FAIRLY RESILIENT TO THE NEGATIVE EFFECT OF AN UPWARD REVISION TO FEBRUARY U.K. RETAIL SALES TO A 1.1 PCT RISE FROM THE 2.5 PCT GAIN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

AT 1521 GMT THE FTSE INDEX WAS 2.8 UP AT 2,077.8.

ONE TRADER SAID, "IT LOOKS AS THOUGH THE MARKET FEELS THAT 3 PCT BASE RATES ARE HERE TO STAY, AT LEAST IN THE IMMEDIATE TERM, SO THE FIGURE DIDN'T DESTROY THE MARKET."

AMONG FIRMER DRUG COMPANIES, GLAXO WAS 24P FIRMER AT 1347 WITH FISONS 9P UP AT 296 AND RECKITT AND COLMAN 18P HIGHER AT 403. DEALERS SAID THE NEWS OF MERGER TALKS BETWEEN BEECHAM AND SMITHKLINE LIFTED ICI.

ONE SAID, "THE RUMOUR WAS THAT ICI AND UNILEVER MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIKELY TO BID FOR BEECHAM. TODAY'S NEWS MAKES THAT SEEM UNLIKELY, SO THERE'S LESS CHANCE OF ICI HAVING TO MAKE A RIGHTS ISSUE."

PRECIOUS METALS

LONDON, APRIL 3, REUTER - GOLD BULLION WAS RELUCTANT TO MOVE OUT OF A NARROW TWO-DOLLAR TRADE RANGE AND ENDED A QUIET DAY AT \$384.50/\$385.00 DLRS AN OUNCE, DEALERS SAID.
THIS WAS LITTLE CHANGED FROM ITS AFTERNOON FIX OF 385.45 AND NO SLIGHTLY ABOVE FRIDAY'S CLOSE OF 383.50/\$384.00 DLRS.
DEALERS NOTED THAT SUBDUED TRADING IN NEW YORK GAVE OPERATORS LITTLE INCENTIVE TO PUSH PRECIOUS METALS TO HIGHER LEVELS.
PALLADIUM WAS THE EXCEPTION, SUPPORTED BY REPORTS THAT TWO UNGARIAN SCIENTISTS SUCESSFULLY REPRODUCED A NUCLEAR FUSION

London Money Market

LONDON, APRIL 3, REUTER - MONEY MARKET INTEREST RATES CLOSED WITH A SLIGHTLY FIRMER BIAS AS SPECULATION PERSISTED THAT POUND WAS VULNERABLE TO A SHARP FALL AND MIGHT PROMPT AN INCREASE IN BASE RATES, DEALERS SAID.

MONEY RATES ROSE AROUND 1/16 POINT EARLY THIS MORNING AS POUND FELL BELOW 3.18 MARKS AFTER THE CURRENCY MARKETS ACTED NEGATIVELY TO AN ARTICLE IN THE SUNDAY TIMES.

THESE GAINS WERE MAINTAINED AS ECONOMIC DATA THIS MORNING CONFIRMED MARKET SUSPICIONS THAT THE U.K. ECONOMY WAS STILL NOT GROWING SUFFICIENTLY TO BRING ABOUT A CUT IN THE CURRENT 13 PER CENT RATE, DEALERS SAID.

Foreign Exchange

DLR	STG	DMK	FFR	
R -----	1.6805/10	1.8885/90	6.3700/30	OPG
G 1.6770/80	-----	3.1700/35	10.6945/7060	NOON
K 1.8877/8957	3.166/180	-----	29.565/725	FIX
R 6.373/385	10.7010/719	337.03/67	-----	FIX
R 1.6587/6597	2.7816/7850	87.65/75	25.98/26.00	NOON
L 2.1325	3.5790	112.77	33.42	FIX
U 1.10156	0.655496	2.06084	7.01968	CLOSE
R 1.29271	0.765561	2.44671	8.26623	CLOSE
K 132.40/50	221.95/222.26	-----	-----	NOON
SPZ PAIR	31.02/31.02	31.02/31.02	31.02/31.02	

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Arch Times Advertising Department 401-6888/7

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
AUSTRALIA	284.0	285.5	288.0	284.0
AUSTRIA	287.9	280.9	276.0	287.9
BELGIUM	445.3	442.9	441.4	445.3
CANADA	386.8	384.8	384.9	386.8
DENMARK	602.3	601.0	603.5	602.3
FRANCE	464.4	462.8	463.7	464.4
GERMANY	206.7	205.5	204.8	206.7
HONG KONG	2271.2	2262.1	2300.8	2271.2
FINLAND	128.3	126.7	125.8	128.3
ITALY	471.2	472.9	472.7	471.2
JAPAN	1483.6	1475.6	1471.3	1483.6
NETHERLNDs	296.8	295.2	294.6	296.8
NEW ZEAL	90.3	91.7	92.4	90.3
NORWAY	751.0	740.3	738.9	751.0
SPORE	694.7	694.1	696.0	694.7
SPAIN	245.1	243.6	242.5	245.1
SWEDEN	1247.1	1247.5	1243.3	1247.1
SWITZ	186.7	186.5	186.9	186.7
U.K.	632.9	625.4	631.8	632.9
U.S.A.	270.9	268.9	268.8	270.9
WORLD	503.4	500.8	500.0	503.4
E A F E	950.2	955.3	953.0	950.2

NEW YORK

NAME	OPEN	MID	DA
A BSCH COR	35/3	35/	
ATLANTIC R	89/3	89/	
AAR CORP	27/5	27/	
ABBOTT LAB	55/0	54/	
ACME CLVLD	10/4	10/	
ADV MICRO	8/3	8/	
AEROF'L LAB	4/7	4/	
AETNA LIFE	50/3	50/	
AHMANSOHN	16/6	16/	
AIR PR-CHM	42/7	42/	
ALASKA AIR	25/1	25/	
ALBERTSONS	41/3	41/	
ALBINA 8-16	0	82/	
ALCAN ALUM	31/6	31/	
AM CAP SEC	20/6	20/	
AM CYNAMID	51/4	51/	
AM FAMILY	17/0	17/	
AM HOM PRO	86/2	86/	
AM STNDARD	10/0	10/	
AM STORES	57/6	57/	
AM TEL-TEL	31/4	31/	
ANOCO CORP	41/3	41/	
AMP INC	42/0	41/	
AMPCO PIT	0	15/	
AMR CORP	59/7	59/	
ANR GEN CO	33/7	33/	
AMERADA HE	37/3	37/	
ANTHEM ELE	9/6	9/	
APACHE CP	8/7	8/	
APPAL 8-12	0	83/	
ARMSTRONG	34/6	34/	
ASHLND OIL	40/4	40/	
ASIA PACIF	9/0	9/	
ATLS CORP	26/6	26/	
AVERY INT	23/1	23/	
AVNET INC	23/0	23/	
AVON PRODS	22/6	22/	
BCE INC	31/0	31/	
BELLSOUTH	43/1	43/	
BELO CP A	25/7	26/	
BETH STEEL	24/2	24/	
BEVERLY	9/1	9/	
BNK BOSTON	25/5	25/	
BNK BSTN-A	0	39/	
BNK N-YORK	44/0	44/	
BNK TR-NY	42/7	43/	
BNKAMERICA	24/3	24/	
BNKAM SPEC	6/4	6/	
BOEING CO	68/3	68/	
BOISE CASC	43/0	42/	
BND IN GLD	8/0	8/	
BORDEN	58/6	58/	
BOWATER	28/2	28/	
BR TELECOM	47/0	47/	
BRIGGS-STR	27/0	27/	
BRIST-MYER	46/5	47/	
BRUNSWICK	19/6	19/	
C 3 INC	11/0	11/	
C HUD G-EL	21/1	21/	
CABOT CORP	42/5	42/	
CAESARS MO	30/2	30/	
CA FREIGHT	22/4	22/	
CAS NAT GS	14/4	14/	
CAST-COOKE	26/3	26/	
CATERPI TR	57/3	57/	
CBI IND	26/3	26/	
CBS	173/7	173/	
CENTEL CP	64/6	65/	
CHAMP INTL	30/5	30/	
CHAMP SPA	20/4	20/	
CHARTER CO	4/7	5/	
CHASE MAN	37/6	37/	
CHEMED CP	33/5	33/	
CHEMIC BNK	36/2	36/	
CHEVRON	53/0	52/	
CHRYSLER	24/7	24/	
CHUBB CORP	68/0	68/	
CHUR FR CH	6/6	6/	
CIGNA CORP	53/6	53/	
CIN MILACR	22/7	22/	
CIR CIT ST	42/7	43/	
CIRCLE K	15/1	15/	
CITICORP	29/7	29/	
CLARK EQUI	33/7	33/	
CLOROX	31/3	31/	
CMPBL R RES	,14	,14	
CMPBL SP	33/2	33/	
CND PACIFC	19/5	19/	
COACHMEN	9/4	9/	
COASTAL	33/6	33/	
COCA-COLA	51/1	51/	
COLECO	1,00	,15	
COLEMAN CO	73/2	73/	
COLUM GAS	34/4	34/	
COLUMBUS-C	0	111/0	
CON EDISON	32/5	32/	
CONAGRA	32/4	32/	
CON EDISON	45/7	45/	
CONTINENTA	52/0	31/	
CONTL ILLN	*02	*02	
CONTEL CP	50/4	50/	
CONTR DATA	20/6	20/	
COOPER T-R	25/5	25/	
COOPER COM	4/4	4/	
CORNING GL	34/1	34/	
CRAY RES	54/6	55/	
CULLINET	5/0	5/	
DANA CORP	38/3	38/	
DANIEL IND	13/7	14/	
DATA GEN	15/0	15/	
DAYTON HUD	45/5	45/	
DEC	98/5	98/	
DEERE-CO	52/5	52/	
DELTA AIR	59/0	58/	
DIAMOND SH	21/0	21/	
DIEBOLD	42/7	43/	
DISNEY W	79/0	78/	
DOVER CORP	27/7	27/	
DOW CHEMIC	91/7	91/	
DOW JONES	31/6	31/	
DRESSER IN	37/2	37/	
DREYFUS	28/1	28/	
DUKE POWER	44/3	44/	
DUN BRAD	51/0	50/	
DUPONT	102/3	102/	
DUQUESNE	17/7	18/	
DYNAMICS	23/6	24/	
E SYSTEMS	28/2	28/	
EAGLE PICH	14/4	14/	
EASTERN G-	25/4	25/	
EMERSON EL	30/3	30/	
EMERSON RA	4/2	4/	
ETHYL CP	24/4	24/	
EXXON	43/5	43/	
FAN DOL ST	11/2	11/	
FED NAT MO	63/7	63/	
FIELDCREST	27/0	27/	
FLEETWOOD	28/5	28/	
FLEMING CO	33/0	33/	
FMC CORP	34/1	34/	
FORD MOTOR	49/0	48/	
FOSTER WHL	17/0	17/	
FRCHLD IND	14/0	14/	
FREE MC OG	4/7	5/	
FST BANK	20/6	20/	
FST CHICAG	38/0	38/	
FST INTERS	47/1	46/	
FST MISSIP	18/2	18/	
GANNET CO	37/7	37/	
GAP STORES	39/4	39/	
GALVESTON	3/2	3/	
GATX CORP	56/7	56/	
GCA CP	0	5/	
GEN DATA	5/5	5/	

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE - COMPARISON						
NYSE HIGHEST VOLUME		AMEX HIGHEST VOLUME				
SMITHKLINE	65	+ 4 1/8	FRUIT LOOM	9 3/4	+	3/4
SHAKLEE	27 3/4	UNCH	DIASONICS	2 1/4	-	1/16
CARSW SCOT	20 7/8	+ 7	TEXAS AIR	13 5/8	-	1/4
EXON	43 5/8	- 1/4	AMDAHL CP	16 5/8	UNCH	
CHASE MAN	38 3/8	+ 1/2	I.C.H. CP	4 1/2	UNCH	
UNION CARB	29 1/4	+ 1/8	ATLAS CL B	2	UNCH	
CITICORP	30 1/8	+ 3/8	PHIL TEL	13 7/8	+ 1	3/8
TOSCO	4 1/2	+ 1/4	ECHO BAY	14 7/8	-	1/8
TRIBUNE CO	47 5/8	+ 3 3/8	NY TIMES A	27 1/2	+ 1	
ILL POWER	15	+ 1/2	MAGMA COPP	6 1/4	-	1/4
NYSE LARGEST PER CENT CHANGE						
CARSW SCOT	20 7/8	+ 7	SIERRACIN	9 3/4	+ 2 1/8	
TRIBUNE CO	47 5/8	+ 3 3/8	PHIL TEL	13 7/8	+ 1 3/8	
GREEN TREE	7	+ 1/2	T E C INC	3 7/8	+ 3/8	
SERVICE RE	3 1/8	- 3/8	AMER CAP	2 1/4	- 3/8	
IMPERIAL	5 7/8	- 1/2	MEDIO INC	3 1/4	- 1/4	
NYSE VOLUME	75,516,070		AMEX VOLUME	4,109,130		
STOCKS UP	620		STOCKS UP	195		
STOCKS DOWN	651		STOCKS DOWN	249		
31-MAR NASDAQ VOLUME	125,012,300					
STOCKS UP	1176	DOWN 823				

Wall Street Journal

NEW YORK, April 3 (Reuter): Strength in airlines and blue chips led the broad market higher, aided by buy programmes, Chicago and New York traders said. Airlines rose along with a jump in NWA following Marvin Davis' 90-dlr a share bid. Transportation and industrial indexes rose strongly. The Dow was up 12 at 2202 and the Dow Jones

The Dow was up 12 at 2293 and the Dow transports shot up 15 to 1043. Gainers led declining issues seven-to-four. S.G. Warburg senior trader Ken Ducey said the market was supported in part "by good strength in the airlines" on the NWA bid and gains in banks on hopes for progress toward a solution to Third World debt problems at IMF/World Bank meetings.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY REUTERS FINANCIAL SERVICES

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

International Board Highlights

LONDON The Royal Bank of Scotland said in a statement it has suspended an issue of 400 mln dls of perpetual floating rate notes after the Bank of England withdrew an assurance about the issue's status. (XLCD 0740)

London The Asian Development Bank is issuing a 5-7% pct 100 mln dr 10-year Eurobond priced at 101.35, lead manager Shorsman & Lehman Hutton International said. (XLCD 0819)

London The lead manager of South Australia is issuing a 15-1/4 pct 75 mln Australian dr Eurobond due May 5, 1994 and priced at 101.35.

Tokyo The Finance Ministry is lobbying for relaxation of regulation of publicly and privately offered yen bonds issued by foreign governments and financial institutions, capital market sources here said. (XLCD 0841)

Frankfurt The West German Federal Postal Authority is issuing a two billion mark 10-year domestic bond with a seven pct coupon priced at 100.75 to yield 6.89 pct, a Bundesbank spokesman said. (XLED 1013)

London Midland PLC said it proposed to create 150 mln shg and 250 mln drs of non-cumulative preference shares. London's "big four" securities houses, aided by the boom in equity warrant deals, increased their dominance of the Frankfurt-Turin new mark Eurobonds totaling roughly 3.61 billion marks were issued in March compared with 11 totalling 1.91 billion in February. Bundesbank statistics showed (XLDF 0225)

BOMBAY

	PR.CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	GNFC	46.75	46.50	46 NAT INDEX	368.98	571.56
ACC	293	296	305	GRASIM	111.50	116	114.50 NIPPON	36	36
ALLEN CHEM	--	--	--	GSFC	153.75	153.75	153.75 NOCIL	860	855
ALW HIS	--	--	--	GU ALKL	68	68	71.50 OSIRAL AGRO	90	92
ART FAB	--	--	--	GU HEAVY	16	--	PEICO	24	23
ASHOK LEY	71.50	70	71.50	HERO HONDA	29.50	28.50	29.50 PFIZER	77	75
ASIA PAINT	215	220	215	HIND CIBA	940	930	940 PONDS	200	202.50
ATLAS COP	52	50	50	HIND COCOA	120	118.75	117.50 PREM AUTO	53	54
AUTO CORP	79	76	79	HIND LEVER	84	84	84.50 RAMBAXY	152.50	130
BAJAJ AUTO	420	425	420	HIND MOTOR	43.50	43.75	43.75 RAY WOO	74	73.25
BAR RAYON	360	365	365	HINDALCO	260	260	262.50 RECKITT	165	165
BK BOND	142	146	149	HOCHEST	840	830	840 RELIANCE	140	143
BOM DYE	136	137.50	138.50	HIND RAYON	88	88.50	88.50 SHAW WALL	--	--
BURK MEL	192.50	197.50	215	HINDROL	322.50	325	317.50 SUREN CEM	--	--
CANSHARE	--	--	--	INGERSOLL	380	395	395 SHRI FIB	88	85
CEN ENKA	2680	2680	2700	ITC	64	62	64 SIEMENS	81	79
CEN SPG	1790	1790	1770	JK SYN	74	75	75 SKF	2600	2640
COLGATE	360	361.25	360	KIN SHGC	190	185	197.50 SPIC	57.75	59
CROMT GR	--	810	825	KIR CMM	77.50	78	82.50 ST MILLS	260	250
DCM	15	15.50	16.50	KSE PUMPS	360	367	367 TATA CHEM	122.50	120.50
DEEP FERT	32.50	33	32.50	L AND T	101.50	102	102 TATA OIL	73.75	70
DUNLOR	78	76	78	LILPTON	76	75	75 TATA POW	320	320
EI HOTELS	56	55	52.50	MAC RUSSEL	87.50	87.50	90 TELO	775	775
ESKAYEF	142.50	142.50	138.75	MAHINDRA	93.50	94	97.50 TISCO	1257	1270
ESSAR SPG	24.25	24.75	25	MAS SHARE	16	16	16 VAM ORG	169	169
FOOD SPL	195	197.50	195	MICO	655	650	657.50 VARELI	26.25	25.75
FORBES	59	61	59	MILKFOOD	245	237.50	250 VOLTS	695	680
GAR POLY	77.50	77.50	76.75	MOMI	--	102.50	102.50 WINCO	23.50	23
GE SHIPPING	41.50	41.25	42.35	MRF LTD	460	455	440 ZENITH	65	64
GLINDIA	92.50	93	93.50	MUK IRON	104	102	104 ZUARI AGRO	67.50	67.50

FRANKFURT

STOCK	LAST	PR-CLOSE	STOCK	LAST PR-CLOSE	HITSUB CP	1620	1600	HITSUB EST	1090	1060
AEG	213.0	210.2	AJJINOMOTO	2800	2830	2800	2620	2830	2580	2620
ALLIANZ VR	1697.0	1699.0	AKAI ELEC	705	691	705	691	705	691	691
BAEINER	184.0	187.0	AKOI	1450	1500	1450	1210	1500	1230	1210
BAASF	298.9	293.0	ASAHI GLS	2260	2290	2260	2390	2290	2330	2390
BAFER	302.0	298.2	ASAHI OPT	865	844	865	941	844	1040	941
BAFER YTF	369.0	363.0	BANK TOKYO	1700	1700	1700	1280	1700	1700	1280
DAIMER BEN	677.3	665.0	BRIDGESTON	1680	1690	1680	1340	1690	1680	1340
DEUTSC BANK	529.5	516.0	CAIN	1650	1650	1650	1688	1650	1688	1688
DLW	475.0	473.0	CASIO COMP	1370	1390	1370	1390	1390	1370	1390
DRESDNER B	321.5	315.0	CHUGAI PHAR	1670	1590	1670	1590	1590	1670	1590
DT BARCODE	174.0	170.2	CITIZEN W	1660	1620	1660	1610	1620	1600	1610
FAZ INDEX	561.37	535.97	DAIICHI KAN	3580	3350	3580	3350	3350	3500	3350
FELDMEIER	320.0	314.5	DAI NIP. PT	2290	2290	2290	2290	2290	2290	2290
GOLDSCHEID	362.0	360.0	DAI NIP SC	980	980	980	980	980	980	980
HARPER	454.0	458.0	DAI NIP TO	950	945	950	945	950	945	945
HESCH	250.0	242.1	DAITEL	1820	1820	1820	1820	1820	1820	1820
HORN	225.0	222.3	DAIWA H	1960	2000	1960	1960	2000	1960	1960
HUSSEL NLD	497.0	492.0	DAIWA SEC	2330	2350	2330	2350	2350	2330	2350
KALI SALZ	221.0	215.5	DAIWA SEC	1810	1820	1810	1820	1820	1810	1820
KARSTADT	431.0	429.5	DAIKIN	2490	2520	2490	2520	2520	2490	2520
KAUFHOF	417.0	414.0	DAIKIN	1940	1900	1940	1900	1900	1940	1900
KLOECK H	176.0	175.0	DAISEI	2300	2330	2300	2330	2330	2300	2330
KLOECK W	177.8	171.3	TO TOKYO	5700	5780	5700	5780	5780	5700	5780
LINDE	722.0	710.0	TAI SHI	1350	1370	1350	1370	1370	1350	1370
LUFTHANSA	164.5	161.5	TAKEKI	1770	1750	1770	1750	1750	1770	1750
MAN	270.0	261.0	TAKEKI	2160	2190	2160	2190	2190	2160	2190
MANNESMANN	243.0	234.3	TAKEKI	1520	1510	1520	1510	1510	1520	1510
MERCDES	531.0	521.0	TAKEKI	1940	1900	1940	1900	1900	1940	1900
METALLGES	418.0	408.5	TAKEKI	1700	1690	1700	1690	1690	1700	1690
NIXDORF PF	300.2	300.0	TAKEKI	982	985	982	985	985	982	985
PHILIP KDN	47.10	45.80	TAKEKI	945	956	945	956	956	945	956
PORSCH	718.5	715.0	TAKEKI	1830	1810	1830	1810	1810	1830	1810
PREUSSAG	255.5	247.0	TAKEKI	1410	1410	1410	1410	1410	1410	1410
PWA	302.5	300.0	TAKEKI	1320	1270	1320	1270	1270	1320	1270
RHEINMETAL	472.0	467.0	TAKEKI	4670	4630	4670	4630	4630	4670	4630
RWE	248.0	241.5	TAKEKI	1550	1570	1550	1570	1570	1550	1570
RWE P	222.5</td									

OPEC may boost output if prices stabilise

KUWAIT, April 3. (AP): The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries will consider increasing its output ceiling of 18.5 million barrels a day if oil prices stabilise at the reference price of \$18 or more in June. OPEC's president Rilwan Lukman was quoted today as saying in an interview with a local daily.

"If we found oil prices in June stabilised at the level of \$18 a barrel or more, we would increase the organisation's production ceiling. Otherwise, the reference price will remain as it is. We cannot predict what is going to happen in the coming two months," Lukman said.

Ian Seymour, editor of the weekly Middle East Economic Survey, reported from Vienna that confidence in prices was melting, resistance to a boost in the production ceiling.

"This great confidence on the price front ... made Iran and Algeria more open than might have been expected to the idea of a sizable boost in the OPEC production ceiling for the second half of the year," MEES reported in its latest edition.

OPEC officials expect a boost of between 1 million and 1.5 million barrels to be agreed on at the June meeting, MEES said.

Lukman, who is also Nigeria's oil minister, was interviewed in Vienna where he last week attended a meeting of eight OPEC oil ministers forming the organisation's market monitoring and long-term strategy committee.

The organisation's president doused the significance of last week's market price hitting the \$18 price per barrel, an increase of \$5 a barrel since last November.

He said he did not consider that an increase in prices. "What happened is that the price ... touched OPEC's official price of \$18 a barrel," he said. "The prices of certain crude grades have exceeded those

of other crudes. This happens occasionally because of changing circumstances."

OPEC, he pointed out, takes into consideration a basket of crudes in calculating prices. "According to this concept, oil prices did not rise," Lukman said.

"We in OPEC want to be realistic. We don't want prices to rise in jumps or to collapse," he said.

The OPEC chief conceded that the Vienna committee meeting found that "one or two of the 13 member countries have failed to stick to their OPEC-decreed quota."

Jordan lifts ban on West Bank olive oil

AMMAN, April 3. (Reuters): Jordan has lifted its ban on olive oil imports from the occupied West Bank because its own olive farmers have now sold their crop, an official said.

Agriculture Ministry Under-secretary Salem Lawzi told Reuters that, for two months from March 25, Amman would allow in 2,540 tonnes of West Bank olive oil and 616 tonnes of pressed olives.

"This comes under the title of family gifts, but in practice it can be distributed on the local market," he said. "There is no problem for our local farmers now because all their oil has been sold or consumed."

Previously Jordan allowed visitors from the West Bank to bring only two 16-kg (35-pound) cans of oil across the Jordan river bridges as gifts to relatives in the kingdom.

In Nablus, Khaled Qutob, secretary of the West Bank Agricultural Union, said most individuals would now assign their rights to commercial shippers.

"We've been talking about it with the Jordanians for some time and now we've received approval," he told Reuters.

"In previous years the Jordanian government bought our olive oil for official and military consumption. Now it will be sold on the private market."

Qutob said West Bank producers were also negotiating with an Italian company to sell 6,000 tonnes of olive oil for re-export.

He said sales to Jordan and the Italian deal, if finalised, would raise prices and ease pressures on growers, who had great difficulty selling this year's bumper crop.

An Italian diplomat in Amman said Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti assured Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat in December of his country's willingness to buy West Bank olive oil as a gesture of support for people in the territory.

West Bank farmers had a surplus of around 20,000 tonnes of olive oil, their main cash crop, after last year's harvest.

Jordan, which consumes around 15,000 tonnes a year, produced 10,000 tonnes to add to 5,000 tonnes already in stock.

After disengaging from the West Bank in July, Jordan said it would accept from its former territory only if it needed them, a move which aroused resentment there at the time. Amman previously bought about half the West Bank's farm exports.

Soviet trade office opens

SEOUL, South Korea, April 3. (Agencies): The Soviet Union opened its first trade office in South Korea today, becoming the third communist country to do so, the state-run Korea Trade Promotion Corp., said.

Officials said the Soviet trade office was set up under an agreement signed between the state-run trade organisation and the Soviet Chamber of Commerce in Moscow on Dec 1 last year. The two countries have yet to establish formal ties.

The trade officials said South Korea will open its trade office in Moscow next week.

Hungary and Yugoslavia last year opened trade offices in Seoul and Poland and Bulgaria were slated to open Korean trade offices in a month, the officials said.

Products

In 1988, South Korea exported \$59.6 million worth of goods, including electric home appliances, textiles and steel products to the Soviet Union, while it imported \$1.58 million of Soviet goods, including aluminium ingots, cotton and other yarns and pulp.

The government of President Roh Tae-Woo has a policy calling for direct trade and other exchanges with communist countries with a view to improving relations and easing tension with North Korea.

Hungary exchanged ambassadors with South Korea in February, becoming the only communist country to establish full diplomatic ties with the capitalist south.

US budget forecast optimistic, says IMF

WASHINGTON, April 3. (Reuters): The International Monetary Fund (IMF), calling the Bush administration's latest budget forecasts optimistic, said today there was a risk the deficit might not fall much over the next three years.

The warning was contained in the IMF's semi-annual world economic outlook, which said the huge budget gap was threatening economic prosperity by fuelling inflation and contributing to global trade imbalances.

The IMF said the deficit for fiscal year 1990, which begins on October 1, is likely to total \$148 billion, \$1 billion above the administration's latest estimate.

The fund said its higher interest rate assumptions accounted for the bulk of the difference.

The IMF expects the deficit to shrink relative to the size of the US economy in coming years, but not as much as the Bush administration does.

Yet it cautioned that both its and the administration's projections may well underestimate the size of future deficits in the absence of new measures to staunch the flow of red ink.

The fund said the risks for the administration's projections were particularly largely because they seemed to be based on

Deficit likely to widen

currency markets, increase the burden of Third World debt and hinder growth in developing countries. The Washington-based fund said more harsh medicine might be needed.

"The tightening of monetary conditions during 1988 has helped to reduce the danger of a significant pick-up in inflation during the period ahead. However, policymakers should be prepared to take additional steps should inflation fail to moderate as envisaged," the IMF's staff said in their semi-annual world economic outlook.

The report was released as the IMF's policy-making interim committee met to discuss the economy and new US proposals for reducing Third World debt.

All these considerations clearly pointed to the need for a decisive effort to reduce the deficit further, preferably by emphasising spending cuts, the IMF said.

"Given the size of the deficit, however, measures to raise revenue should not be ruled out, particularly those which are unlikely to harm efficiency, such as the elimination of certain tax preferences," it said.

In a sombre analysis, the fund said the deficit in the US current account, the broadest measure of trade, was likely to widen from \$135.3 billion in 1988 to 139.3 billion this year and to 156.6 billion in 1990.

At the same time the mirror-image surpluses of Japan and West Germany would grow. It said.

Although the rise in interest rates in the past year could upset

Union leader kills himself

Strikers fight riot police



A striking shipyard worker throws a petrol bomb at riot police in the South Korean industrial city of Ulsan, on Sunday. Thousands of workers from the giant Hyundai shipyard clashed with police for the fourth consecutive day. (Reuters wirephoto)

Attackers

Police fired tear-gas to disperse the attackers, but several hundred students escaped from the sprawling shipyard to protect operations and non-striking workers. Many of whom have been attacked by members of the militant union.

Thousands of riot police were deployed in and around the sprawling shipyard to protect operations and non-striking workers. Many of whom have been attacked by members of the militant union.

A striking union leader set himself ablaze while negotiating with management today, killing himself and leaving his boss and four other workers with serious burns, the Yonhap news agency said.

The expenditure incurred on projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives is in addition to the Rs 20 crore under the ITEC programme.

Similarly, the number of countries benefitting from this programme is 70.

The annual report of the

External Affairs Ministry for 1988-89 explains that this increase has been due to pressing demand from the beneficiary countries from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The expenditure incurred on projects in Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives is in addition to the Rs 20 crore under the ITEC programme.

The annual report says that during the year Afghanistan, Mauritius, Vietnam, Kampuchea, Laos, Ethiopia, Kenya and Seychelles were the main recipients of the assistance under the ITEC programme.

Under the programme, India provides technical training to the

Kuwait keen to boost its air trade

LONDON, April 3. (KUNA): Kuwait is looking to increase its air trade since the ceasefire between Iran and Iraq went into effect last August, according to a report here today.

In a special supplement on the Middle East air cargo, Lloyd's List newspaper said before the Gulf war much of Kuwait's import trade was re-exported to its larger neighbour, Iraq.

"Direct imports by air, particularly from the Far East were also channelled through Kuwait during the war for road haulage up-country, a practice that is likely to continue for some time."

But the publication pointed out that with the ceasefire coinciding with a relative up-turn in Kuwait's economic fortunes, Kuwait Airways' cargo operations are on the increase.

Services

Lloyd's also reported that Kuwait Airways is another carrier in the region which has extended its London services across the Atlantic, casting in on the US "aversion" to shipping through the Gulf in the latter part of the war.

Elsewhere, the UK is Kuwait Airways largest trading partner in Europe followed by West Germany and France.

The airline operates a twice-weekly 707 freighter service to London and a similar service to Frankfurt.

Argentina names new bank chief

Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 3. (AP): New Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese announced that banks and foreign exchange houses will be closed today and possibly tomorrow to give him time to assemble his team and head off any currency fluctuations.

Pugliese, 74, was named Friday to replace Juan Sourrouille, who resigned along with Central Bank president Jose Luis Machina and Treasury Minister Mario Brodersohn. The resignations came amid rising inflation, a devalued currency and rising political pressure to ease the economic crisis.

National elections are set for May 14. The candidate of the ruling radical Civic Union, Eduardo Angeloz, publicly suggested last week that President Raúl Alfonsín's economic team step down, given that inflation for March was likely to be double-digit for the first time in six months.

The Argentine austral had declined by 59 per cent against the US dollar since early February.

Angeloz' request, and Alfonsín's prompt action, were seen as a last-ditch effort to distance Angeloz from the unpopular policies of his party and boost his standing in the polls, where he trails peronist party candidate Carlos Menem by 7 to 10 points.

Machina will be replaced by Enrique García Vásquez, Pugliese said.

The commission's help line will continue for two years, Kokubo said.

Meanwhile, the Economic Planning Agency has received some 760 phone calls since April 1, spokesperson Mitsuaki Asada said.

About one-third of the callers complained of unreasonable large price hikes, she said, while many other callers had questions about the tax system itself.



Owner and chairman of Harrods, Mohamed Al Fayed, dons a Cub Scout's cap and gives the salute on Sunday as he plays host at a party for 400 Scouts, Cubs, Guides and Brownies at the Harrods store in London. Al Fayed's take-over of the Harrods store is being challenged by Roland 'Tiny' Rowland's London group. (Reuters wirephoto)

I'll never give it up, says Al Fayed

LONDON, April 3. (AP): Egyptian millionaire Mohamed Al Fayed, embroiled in controversy about his take-over of Harrods, told reporters yesterday that no one would take the British department store from him — "only God."

Al Fayed and his brothers bought the House of Fraser stores — including Harrods — in 1985 for \$1.03 billion after the Monopolies and Mergers Commission thwarted repeated purchasing attempts by London PLC.

Since then, Lourho, a British conglomerate headed by Tiny Rowland, has waged a campaign to have the take-over reversed, alleging the Al Fayed's made false representations about their wealth and origins to make their bid. The brothers deny the allegations.

The battle burst back into the news on Thursday when the government obtained a court order blocking publication of a special edition of the Observer newspaper devoted entirely to the long-running dispute.

The newspaper, owned by Lourho, said it was printing what

claimed were long extracts from an unclassified government report on the matter.

Al Fayed, who played host to a private party on Sunday at Harrods, was persistently questioned by reporters and finally smiled and responded, "I paid cash. My cheque never bounced."

"I own the shop and nobody ever will be able to take it away, only God."

"How can I give it up? I'll never give it up," he said jovially. "I'm making plans to be buried on the top."

Airline chief testifies on financial scandal

ATHENS, Greece, April 3. (AP): Alexander Akriavakis, chief of Greece's national carrier, Olympic Airways, testified today before a magistrate probing the biggest financial scandal in Greece's history and posted a 4-million drachma bond to keep from going to jail.

Akriavakis, a close friend of Premier Andreas Papandreou,

was accused of breach of faith for depositing almost 2-billion drachmas (\$12.3 million) of the airline's money with the troubled Bank of Crete, when it was encountering cash flow problems.

The unions are looking for job security provisions, while the company is seeking greater job flexibility as it says it needs because of changing technology and bitter competition.

Union officials said the unions

have improved leverage in the talks because if they call for a strike, they could shut down the company.

Ray Williams, AT and T's vice-president for labour relations and lead negotiator, downplayed any talk of a strike or improved union leverage.

George Skarlates who is heading the investigation into how \$200 million of the Bank of Crete's funds was allegedly embezzled by its former chairman has already remained in custody three directors of state run organisations following their testimony on charges of breach of faith.

In addition to the 4-million drachma (\$25,000) bond, the investigating magistrate banned Akriavakis from leaving the country.

Scandal

The scandal which erupted last September has rocked the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (PASOK) only 75 days before general elections are held. Published opinion polls have indicated that the socialists have been hurt by the scandal and would lose their hold on power if elections were held today.

A judicial source who asked not to be named said the investigation to the Bank of Crete scandal "would drag on well after elections."

"Once the investigation is complete, I don't foresee the case coming to trial until next year," the same source explained.

A key figure in the scandal is the former chairman of the Bank of Crete, George Koskotas, who fled the country last November and eventually went to the United States. He was arrested and is in a Salem, Massachusetts jail awaiting the outcome of a Greek petition for his extradition.

The commission's help line will continue for two years, Kokubo said.

Meanwhile, the Economic Planning Agency has received some 760 phone calls since April 1, spokesperson Mitsuaki Asada said.

Concerns over inflation and excessive price hikes discouraged many shoppers last weekend, and a sale at the Takashimaya department store in Tokyo brought in 10 per cent fewer sales than normal for weekends, said Takashimaya spokesman Satoshi Ogawa.

"I guess this is a kind of setback from the sales we made in March, when consumers bought so much to stock up," he said.

He said it will take more than month to determine how the consumer tax will affect sales.

The tax

EVENTS

Soviet artists explore the Orient

By Jadranka Porter

Arab Times staff
THREE contemporary Soviet painters, currently exhibiting at the Kuwait National Museum gallery, take one by surprise — they are so oriental in content and form that they could very well be coming from the East.

But then two of them do — Omar Bikov Zavlan is from Uzbekistan and Sahrab Korbanov comes from Tadzhikistan, a Soviet republic just north of Afghanistan.

Oleg Safostyuk, on the other hand, comes from Moscow. Unlike his two colleagues who work in oils, Safostyuk, who made his name as a graphic artist, presented close to 30 of his water-colours. These depict familiar scenes — Salmaia waterfront, the Kuwait Towers, dhow, mosques, in addition to an Algerian port and what I presume is the Russian landscape.

Thus all three artists hold an instant appeal for the local audience. Familiarity aside the artists are outstanding. It is Korbanov who struck me as a man of exceptional talent. His style is so distinct that after seeing 17 of his paintings I would have no trouble spotting a Korbanov among hundreds of oils. Korbanov's works reflect the artist's abundant energy and inspiration, and insatiable desire to explore his potential. Although there is an element of tranquillity and sometimes even gloominess especially in the way he portrays people, his canvases convey the richness of nature and zest for life.

He is as skillful in composition as he is in colour mixing. Space on each of Korbanov's canvases is carefully studied and filled. The subject of his attention, usually a single human figure, gets equal amount of treatment and attention as does the background. In



Portrait by Korbanov

fact it is sometimes difficult to decide which one is more important.

For example, there is an oil portrait of a woman in great detail. She is standing beside a table with fruits, a bowl, a pitcher, glasses, each object composed of scores of squares in different colour tones. In the background is a lush garden with a fountain. Each flower, each leaf is painstakingly outlined and coloured. The

painting could be divided into a portrait, a landscape and a still life but the parts blend well into a larger composition.

Korbanov's paintings teem with a multitude of objects, plants, people. It is almost like the painter fears that "empty" surface is a waste of space. Korbanov shows remarkable control in his colour schemes. He uses dozens of colours on each oil yet rather than cacophony of colour the end result is



Landscape by Zavlan

harmony. This is because each work has Korbanov drawing from a separate well of colours. One colour is always dominant, scores of the accompanying ones are subordinate. This is best seen in his oil depicting a girl standing on a chair and feeding a bird. Green reigns supreme on this painting.

Another feature of Korbanov's paintings is a frequent diagonal movement not only of his brushstroke but also in the positioning of people and objects. This gives his paintings unrealistic quality associated with another more exotic or abstract world. This is further emphasized by his use of geometrical figures and portrayal of men wearing long robes and turbans. Although this is obviously an influence from Islamic art and environment, when seen on Korbanov's canvases it acquires an ethereal quality. Korbanov is a painter with magnetic power,

the more you examine his works the more appealing they are.

Some of Zavlan's canvases are so different that they could be coming from different artists. He displayed some of his landscapes but there were also works which could be classified as abstract art. A painting that sticks in my mind is an oil portraying a scene which could be coming from mediaeval Middle East. It depicts a leisure scene in a harem with exotic-looking women playing lutes and singing. Not only is the scene taken out of the past but the technique and colour scheme Zavlan used gave an impression that the oil is a dated work of art.

A word of advice to the organisers — it would have been helpful if paintings had been at least numbered if not identified by titles.

The exhibition runs through April 6.

Queen's birthday

The British embassy in Kuwait on Monday hosted a reception to celebrate the birthday of Queen Elizabeth II. Ambassadors, senior Kuwait officials and others attended. Right: British Ambassador Peter Hinchliffe seen with one of the guests. (Below): The ambassadors of Finland, South Korea, Thailand, the US, Japan and Egypt pictured at the reception. (Photos by Ahmed Burni)



WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery

UNTIL April 7: Paintings by Shaker Hussain are on show at the gallery. Thunayan Al Ghannim Bldg., Al Soor Street, from 9 am to 12 noon and 3 to 8 pm.

Free Atelier Studio

UNTIL April 8: A Jordanian art exhibition is open at the Free Atelier Studio, Gulf St., daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm. The show has been organised by the Jordanian embassy in co-operation with the National Council for Culture Arts and Letters.

Ghadir Gallery

UNTIL April 13: Yemeni artist Abdullah Al Amri will show his latest paintings at the Ghadir Gallery, Salmaia Complex. The exhibition will be open from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8.30 pm.

Formative Arts Show

UNTIL April 5: A formative arts show is being held at the Dohiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. More than 80 paintings by Arab and Gulf artists are on display. Open daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

THEATRE

Malayalam Drama

APRIL 7: Gayathri Arts will present their first Malayalam schools in Kuwait recently held a musical show to pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the father of the nation.

The show called "Mili Nakhon Ki Sham: Pakistan Ke Naam" was held on the occasion of the Pakistan Day at the Labour Union Hall. Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait Zahid Saeed was the chief guest.

The children presented national songs and folk dances. Some students spoke about their country's struggle for independence.

SOCIAL

KAPILKU NIGHT

APRIL 7: 6.30 pm. Holiday Inn Hotel. Sing-alike contest and Bagong Kampeo for Filipinos. Call Sarah — 4843447; or Rod Corezo — 4233595.

MUSICAL TRIBUTE

THE students of Pakistani

schools in Kuwait recently held a musical show to pay tribute to Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the father of the nation.

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PRAYERS

Fajr

Zahr 4.12 am

Asr 11.51

Maghreb 3.23 pm

Isha 6.09

Jinah 7.27

A charity bazaar organised by the Nadi Al Falaf ended yesterday. More than 20 embassies participated. Desserts prepared by the wives of Asian diplomats were a hit with the Kuwaitis. Above: Wives of Pakistani diplomats seen at their stall.

The People's Theatre recently presented an Arabic play entitled Sabbaq Me a Al Zaman at the Dasma Theatre. Above: A scene from the play. (KUNA photo).

Al Andalus Florida Straits Starring: Raul Julia, Farid Ward

Al Salimiya Inner Space Starring: Dennis Quaid

Al Hamra Ell'al Ami (Arabic) Starring: Ilham Shahin, Mohsin Mohiuddin

Drive-In Amber Al Maut (Arabic) Starring: Noor Al Shareef, Afaf Shuaib

Al Firdous Soorma Bhopali (Hindi) Starring: Jagdeep, Aruna Irani

Al Maha Drive-In Ahmad Drive-In Al Dunya Ala Yamama (Arabic)

Fahheel Open-Air Mere Jeevan Saathi (Hindi)

Al Fahheel Suspect

Al Jabra Phool Saja (Bengali)

Granada Daisy (Bengali)

Surbabikhat Hard Ticket to Hawaii

Al Jleeb Baaper Beta (Bengali)

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Granada Daisy (Bengali)

Surbabikhat Hard Ticket to Hawaii

Al Jleeb Baaper Beta (Bengali)

Fajr Zahra 4.12 am

Zahr 11.51

Asr 3.23 pm

Maghreb 6.09

Isha 7.27

Jinah

Al Andalus Florida Straits Starring: Raul Julia, Farid Ward

Al Salimiya Inner Space Starring: Dennis Quaid

Al Hamra Ell'al Ami (Arabic) Starring: Ilham Shahin, Mohsin Mohiuddin

Drive-In Amber Al Maut (Arabic) Starring: Noor Al Shareef, Afaf Shuaib

Al Firdous Soorma Bhopali (Hindi) Starring: Jagdeep, Aruna Irani

Al Maha Drive-In Ahmad Drive-In Al Dunya Ala Yamama (Arabic)

Fahheel Open-Air Mere Jeevan Saathi (Hindi)

Al Fahheel Suspect

Al Jabra Phool Saja (Bengali)

Granada Daisy (Bengali)

Surbabikhat Hard Ticket to Hawaii

Al Jleeb Baaper Beta (Bengali)

Fajr Zahra 4.12 am

Zahr 11.51

As

'Mind-boggling media event'

The truth about Pamella?

By Vimla Patil

NEARLY every paparazzo in London knows Pamella. By sight that is. Very few people know anything about her background. This is how Pamella Singh, Femina's Miss India 1982, a candidate for the Miss Universe contest, has been described by the British press. During the past weeks, a volcano of scandal — sex, intrigue, high-society shenanigans, political manoeuvres and gossip — has exploded on the British political and social landscape, threatening the very continuance of the Thatcher government.

A seemingly ordinary girl, coming from an ordinary Indian background, has caused the whole of Britain to dig up the past of an enigmatic young woman who seems to disappear habitually from one continent, only to make a dramatic appearance on another, and after some time, on yet another.

Who is Pamella? Where is she from? Who are her friends, lovers? Is she truly a call-girl? Can she really do what she says, and bring down the government of one of the greatest, erstwhile powers of the world? Is she really the heroine of one of the greatest political intrigues of this country? Is she really so beautiful that British politicians, socialites, media-men and minor royalty as well as industrialists and powerful godmen are bending over backwards just to get an introduction to her? Is she really so shrewd, intelligent and calculating that she demands an astronomical sum of one million pounds to tell her story? How did she get a house valued at £850,000? How can she afford Dior gowns and jewels worth lakhs of rupees? Or is she a publicity maniac let loose on an unsuspecting Western society? Was she, as some British papers say, drawn irresistibly to those with position, money and power like a moth to flames? Will she burn herself out eventually?

Further, the British media calls her a girl of stunning looks, overweening ambition and unerring instinct for a social opening.

Breath

In the same breath, however, the British press also reports that even paltry detail of when she arrived in the United Kingdom is unclear.

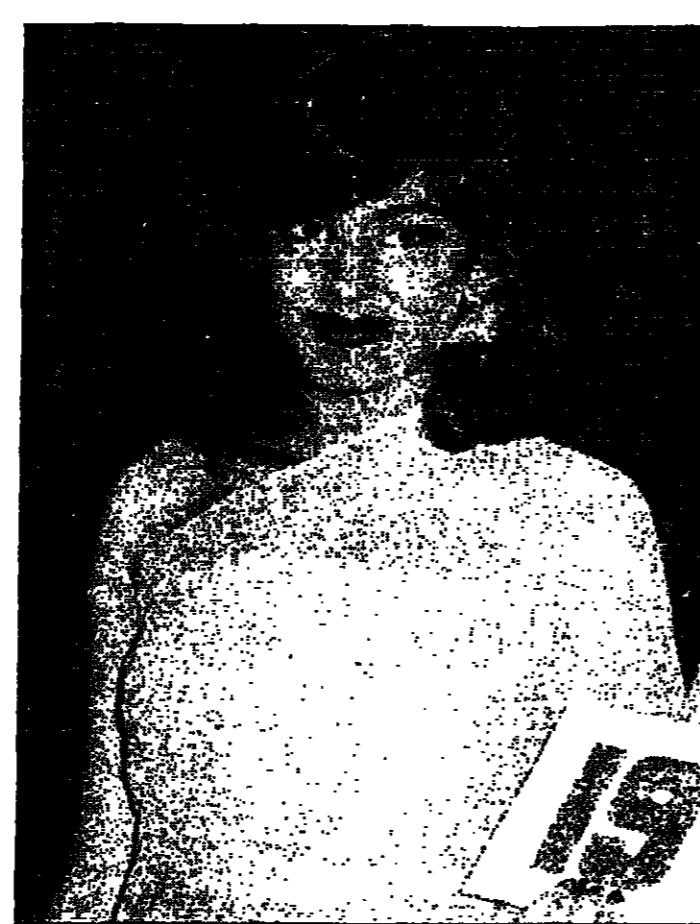
Her first acquaintances say that she was an absolutely stunning woman, but also 'very, very secretive about her past'.

There are conjectures in the

British press that she was born in Bombay into a rich and respectable family and was married to a reputable, respectable Indian gentleman in very respectable circumstances.

The very same British newspapers, after so much guesswork, go on to confirm that, according to Tory Member of Parliament David Shaw, 'She possessed the perfect curriculum vitae to become personal assistant to a member of Parliament. She had contacts in the highest society.' Tory MP Henry Bellingham who helped Shaw to hire her, also helped her to obtain a security pass which provided her with access to Westminster. Bellingham confirms in his interviews that Pamella's credentials were checked thoroughly.

A lifelong friend of Princess Diana, he insists that every possible detail of Pamella's back-



Pamella as she appeared in the Miss India contest, in 1982.

ground had been sought and every reference had been demanded, including certificates, from national editors. Says Bellingham, 'This girl had, as far as we could understand, an impeccable track record and was completely reliable. I must say I only met her once. I have now withdrawn the pass from her — only because of the serious nature of these allegations which are going to be contested in the high court. If the allegations are proved to be complete rubbish, I'd be quite happy to re-issue the pass to her.'

In short, the British press, as indeed the British establishment in complete confusion and finding themselves in an unprecedented tizzy — have resorted to statements which are totally self-contradictory.

The truth is that Pamella Singh was not born in Bombay. She was born in Delhi, according to

her entry form for the Miss India contest. She went to the Lawrence School in Sanawar and was later a student of the Maharani Gayatri Devi School in Jaipur. Pamella is the daughter of a 48-year-old civil servant, Shakuntala Chaudhuri, the daughter of respected Delhi citizen, 76-year-old Dr L. C. Koyla.

Her maternal aunt — the only other relative traced up to now — is Meena Jahan. Her father, Major Mohinder Singh Choudhury, was killed in the war with China in 1962 when Pamella was only two months old. She is supposed to have a brother, Anil, but no one in Bombay seems to have seen him or met him with her.

The birth year of Pamella matches her entry form. She was 19 when she entered the contest and won the Miss India title. It was obvious at the first interview that

Pamella had with me that she was a newcomer to Bombay.

A brooding, silent girl who observed the scene around her more than participate in it, she stated that her ambition was to "make it to the top".

During her post-contest conversations with me, she clearly showed the scars of her traumatic adolescence. Much has been said about her being married, her being a vagabond or her being a call girl, even in Bombay.

These are not facts. During the few months before the contest, which she spent in Bombay, she desperately tried to get modelling assignments. According to those who helped her, she lived an ordinary lifestyle where money was scarce, but ambition was abundant.

Resented

Pamella resented and almost totally rejected her family. After the contest, she said that she did not want to have anything to do with them. She said she came from a 'broken family' and had been battered, beaten and ill-treated by her mother who had thrown her out of the family home because she wanted to become a famous model.

To be quite honest, I did not envisage that Pamella Singh would win the Miss India title. At the preliminary interviews, she looked cautious, guarded and lovely. She did not come with any family member as most other girls do. She was anxious to win and as her pictures show, was surprised and gleeful when she was crowned. She was not a gorichetti (fair & lovely) classic beauty. Dark and gangly, her only assets were her height, charm, uncanny confidence. Which her desperate desire to win added to.

It was after the function that I got to know her a little better. She was warm, full of smiles and a keen listener. Contrary to newspaper reports, she did not break any contractual obligation to Femina. The simple reason is, that in 1982 there was no major sponsor for the Miss India contest. And normally, Femina does not bind any contestant with a contract to perform any specific obligations.

So when Pamella left for Lima, Peru, where the Miss Universe contest was to take place, she left with no broken contracts. In fact, at least with Femina, she was one of the few contestants who kept in touch by writing cards.

The first rumblings came when

the Miss Universe organisers phoned to say that Pamella was

refusing to return to India and had left the hotel where the contestants were housed.

They said she had got engaged to a much older American and had declared that she was going to marry him and stay on in the US. Since this unknown man himself vouched for this, the Miss Universe authorities could do nothing and Femina even less.

I did not hear from either her or the Miss Universe people after this, as Pamella seemed to vanish into the vast anonymity of the frenetic American society. Other contestants went by, with winning candidates making news of another kind. Sangeeta Bijlani became a top model and more recently, an actress. Kavita Bhambhani married well and became an important interior designer. Soni Walia and Juhi Chawla became film stars.

Meher Jessie and Priyadarshini Pradhan became top models within a few months of winning the title. This year's winner, Dolly Minhas is poised to go places and is already booked for a screen test at the R.K. Studios.

Suddenly, in this 25th year of the Miss India contest, Pamella Singh has surfaced in England and within a matter of days, tooted up more column inches than any single personality in the past decade. Going backwards into the eighties, I have searched for information cautiously, tentatively.

Dream

Once she achieved her dream of living in America, she again cultivated celebrities. This time, reportedly, the people she befriended were international names including Libyan Ahmad Gadafi al Daim.

It is confirmed that she returned to India, Delhi and Bombay, in 1984 and met many of her past friends. Swathed in expensive French perfumes and showing off Dior and Yves St Laurent clothes. In just two years, she had acquired a lot of money, chutzpah and class which only an international jet-set lifestyle could give. How she got all this is anyone's guess. She was — when she became Miss India — only 19, a junior college student and had barely spent some time at the Lady Shri Ram College in Delhi. With such an educational background, it was hardly likely that she could earn so much money.

Somewhere, during those two years in America, she married a French record producer named Dominique Bordes and wrote letters to her Indian friends from his Paris address. Did she change

her nationality? Yes, they say. And she met the famed Chandra Swami and reportedly jetted across the continents in his private aircraft.

It is also alleged that the wealthy NRI industrialist Dharam Priya Das (who helped produce Shashi Kapoor's 'Utsav' and bought over Shobha Kilachand's 'Celebrity' magazine), gave her the first opportunity to become a research assistant. It is with this certificate, that she probably made an entry into Britain, sometime in 1985 or 1986.

With her personality polished with a fine, classy patina of glamour and style, with her background of money and important contacts, it seems natural that she launched herself in high society with the inimitable 'élite' of the intelligent, shrewd woman that she had become. Almost immediately, she was seen in the best night clubs and restaurants, at the most important parties and glitzy balls with men like food critic Tony Loray-Cook, Rolling Stone, Bill Wyman, MP David Shaw, Observer editor Donald Trelford, Sunday Times editor Andrew Neil, Sports Minister Colin Moynihan and Boar-



Pamella Bordes, or is it Singh or Chaudhuri?

droom editor Marc Barca. Strangely enough, all these men, who wined and dined her and escorted her everywhere, claimed they knew nothing about her. Her photographs appeared in every gossip column, yet no one knew who she was.

Storm

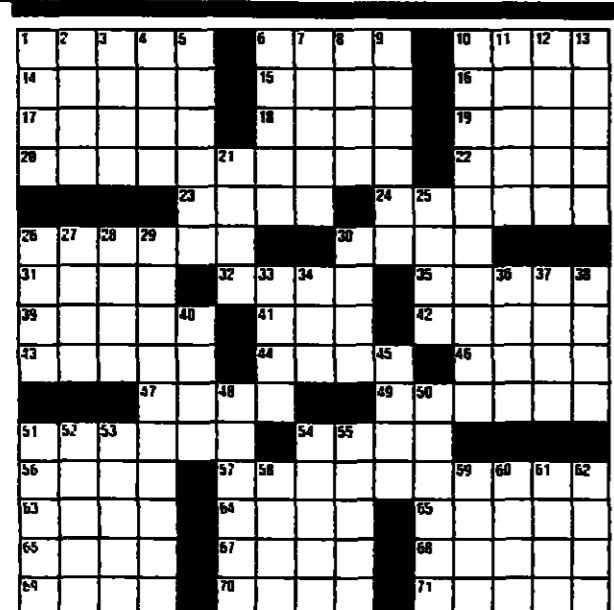
Who then is this woman in the eye of an international media storm? It seems to me she began as an ambitious, rebellious, but warm-hearted, friendly girl. It appears that fate has taken her to the unknown shores of an incredible destiny.

Hardly anyone knows the truth about her nationality or about her correct marital status, or about her family. It seems to me there never was so mind-boggling a media event with so much space devoted to it across the world about so unknown a woman.

Now that even MI5, the British secret service, has cleared her of a Libyan espionage connection or any sinister intrigues in British politics, it seems that Pamella has just scored an international media coup de etat.

Courtesy: Illustrated Weekly of India

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS
1 Rochester features
6 — mator
10 Mountain in Thessaly
14 Of parrots or pigeons
15 Part of a mirror
16 In the know
17 Past or future
18 Salad ingredient
19 Clump
20 Precarious position
22 Garfield's friend?
23 With 44 Across, Western writer
24 Dorothy's destination
26 Forte
30 Thrice of move fame
31 Islands near Galway
32 Restive
35 Finale
39 America's Cup entry
41 A cereal grass
42 Increased
43 John Jacob or Nancy
44 See 23 Across
46 TV's talking horse
47 The Underground, in London
49 City on the Hudson
51 Farmer
54 Land measure
55 Part of a refrain
57 Precarious position
63 Pass over
64 River to the Mediterranean
65 Rich cake
66 Marry

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

FIBS	ARLO	SKIID
ABEL	DIAL	DAISY
CAT	AND	THE FIDDLE
TRAVELLER	ASIDE	
AES	ONCE	
ADAPTS	SANTA SEE	
PILE	SPEAR WAD	
RAIN	CATS AND DOGS	
INA	ARIEL ERIE	
LES	RITES HANDELL	
ALLES	LOT	
SEÑOR	MORTGAGE	
DOG DAYS OF SUMMER		
URGED	ANTE AILS	
BIESS	PAYS NEIST	

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦ 7 ♠ KQJ1082 ♦ AQ8 ♣ A106
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦ KJ6 ♠ K1063 ♦ K8 ♣ AK95
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦ KJ6 ♠ K1063 ♦ K8 ♣ AK95
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass
What do you bid now?
Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦ AK83 ♠ 972 ♣ J643 ♣ 874
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Dob
Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦ 853 ♠ 972 ♣ J643 ♣ 874
The bidding has proceeded:
East South West North
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Dob
Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦ AK83 ♠ 972 ♣ 854 ♣ AQ
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Dob
Pass ?
What do you bid now?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:



THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.



By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

This is going to be an interesting day for you. You will have to make a difficult choice but it cannot be delayed. Keep your wits very much about you. Be prompt.



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

You will not find it easy to make progress but, if you persevere you will do so. If you rely on yourself you will not be disappointed. If you are learning do persevere. Be consistent.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

You will get older it will be harder to learn, but it's never too late to do so. You will be able to make good progress with a personal project. Make sure you do not allow things to get into a bad mess. Be reliable.



Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

You will not feel very active today but you must still try hard. If you are a little more patient the success you have been expecting will come to you. Try to have a good laugh at yourself. Be adaptable.

Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

This is going to be a busy day but you will be able to get a lot done. You should not allow yourself to get into a muddle. Avoid getting into debt. Be generous.

Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

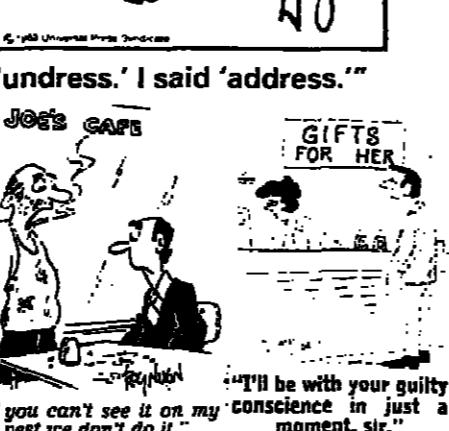
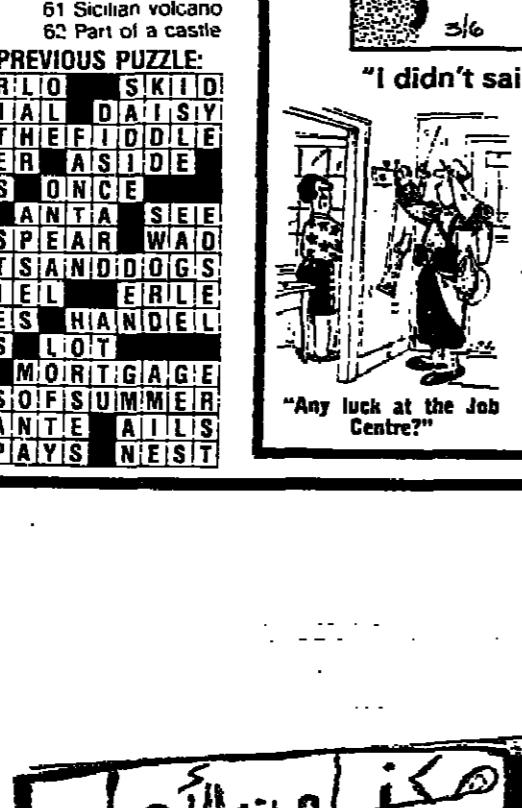
You should aim at getting things right the first time. Do not expect too much from others. Allow for traffic jams. Be less obstinate.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

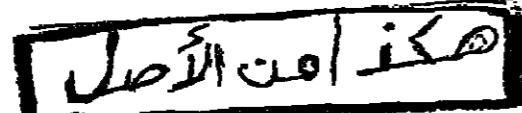
You will be able to use your commonsense to good advantage. Something you have been leaving to one side should now be attended to. Avoid doing anything that could be bad for your health. Be cordial.

Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

You will have a higher success rate than of late. Avoid allowing anything to distract you. Your lucky numbers are 40 and 26. Do your best to avoid losing your temper. Be resilient.



"Any luck at the Job Centre?"
"If you can't see it on my test ice don't do it."



Happy birthday



Altaf N Lakhani celebrated his first birthday last week. Best wishes from mum, dad, and dearest uncle Firoz.

Congratulations



Congratulations to Roohi Rahat, a student of the International School of Pakistan, in Kuwait, who secured the first position in her senior one exams. She scored 94.4 per cent. Keep up the good work, from parents, brother, friends and uncle Khokhar.

Ha! Ha!

Where does Dracula always stay when he's in New York? In the Vampire State Building.

What do you think of Dracula films? Fangtastic!

What does a ghost take for a bad cold? Coffin drops.

What are a ghoul's best friend? Demons.

Where do witches live by the sea? Sand-witch

What is Dracula's favourite sport? Batminton.

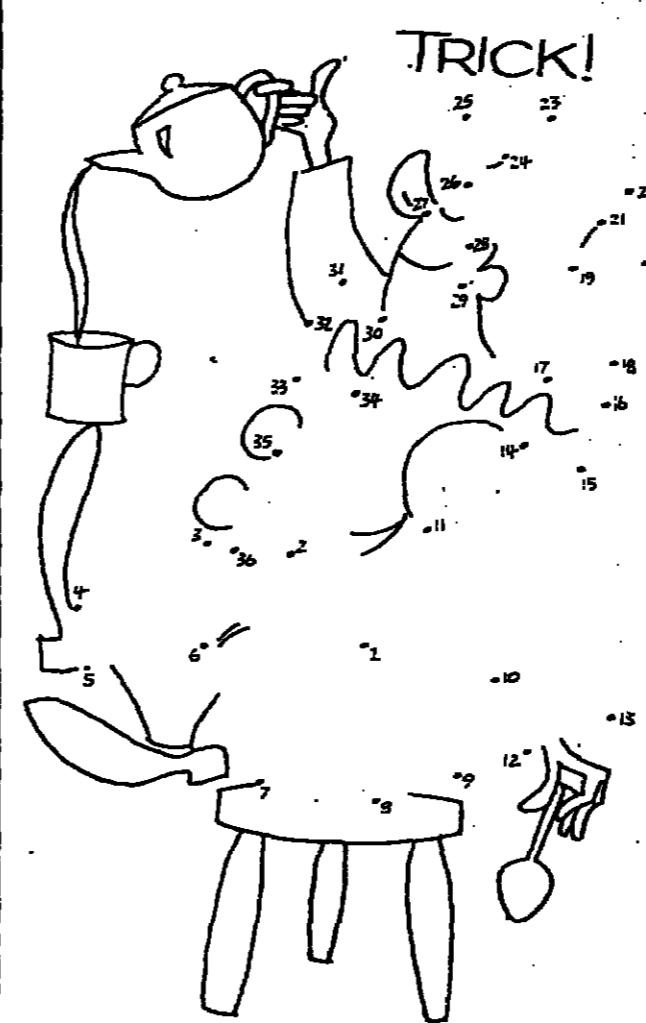
What is a ghost's favourite music? Haunting melodies.

Colouring time



A little girl sits patiently on a saddle until the nosy cameraman leaves her alone.

Join the dots



Poem



DEBORAH DELORA

Deborah Delora, she liked a bit of fun—
She went to the baker's and she bought a penny bun;
Dipped the bun in treacle and threw it at her teacher—
Deborah Delora! what a wicked creature!

English folk rhyme

Young champs strike again



Anna Strakos



Khaled Rashed

CONGRATULATIONS to Anna Strakos and Khaled Hassan Rashed who both won in the NBK Open Tennis Tournament which ended on the 31st of March. The tournament was held on the Ramada Al Salam courts, and started on the 16th of March.

Fifteen-year-old Anna Strakos, played outstandingly throughout the entire tournament. She managed to obtain first place in three events: singles, doubles and mixed doubles!

Khaled Hassan Rashed, 17, won in the men's under-eighteen tournament, and was rewarded with the grand prize of his talented playing.

Well done!

Problem Page

Dear Wise Winnie,
My boyfriend is a
hot air balloonist.
Do you think we
will fall out with
each other?

Dear Wise Winnie,
I've fallen in love
with a wicket-
keeper.
Would he be a
good catch?

Dear Wise Winnie,
I have just found
out my girlfriend
has a wooden leg.
Should I break it off?

Dear Wise Winnie,
I haven't seen my boy-
friend for 24 hours.
Should I call it a day?

Dear Wise Winnie,
My partner and I had
a row in a beauty salon.
Should we make up?

Dear Wise Winnie,
I fancy the girl in
the greengrocers.
Shall I ask her
for a date?

Dear Junior Readers,

As we approach the long, hot days of summer, many of us go and cool off at the beach or swimming pools.

Swimming is a wonderful exercise as your body is supported by the water there is very little strain on muscles and joints, which makes it an ideal sport if you are not particularly too fit to start off with.

Steady swimming is extremely relaxing too, and as it uses muscles which are often missed out with other exercise methods, its great for toning up your whole body. Use a variety of strokes to exercise various muscle groups: front crawl is the most strenuous and back-strokes trim the legs. Build up distance gradually.

If you can't swim, don't be afraid to learn.

However, you ought to take precautions to avoid the flu, heat-stroke and sunburn.

The flu can be most easily obtained through a constant change of weather. For example, being extremely warm and then jumping into cool water and getting out into the heat soon afterwards.

Heat-strokes are identified by uncomfortable pounding headaches. They are common with those who sunbathe, or play in the sand for too long during the hottest hours of the day.

Sunburns are caused by sitting in the sun for too long with no protection. It is advisable to rub in body milk, lotion, or sun-tan lotion of any kind to avoid the painful irritable burns of the harsh sun. Extra care should be taken if you are on the beach, as the salty water tends to dry out the skin.

Manal

Giraffes: tallest animals in the world

Why was the giraffe named 'giraffe'?

THE name "giraffe" comes from the Arabic "zirafah" meaning "long neck."

WHEN we look at most animals they do not seem especially strange to us. But when we look at a giraffe we feel it has a peculiar appearance. The reason for this is probably that long, long neck.

How tall is a giraffe?

The giraffe is the tallest animal in the world and often reaches a height of 5.5 metres. The giraffe also has long legs. Although its legs are about of equal length, very strong muscles have developed at the base of the neck so that its back slopes downwards from shoulder to tail.

The head is small and narrow, and the eyes, which are dark and soft, give this huge animal an expression of gentleness. The ears of the giraffe, which are quite large, are sensitive to the

Amazing facts

James Gordon Bennett, the newspaper editor who sent Stanley to Africa to find Livingstone, was convinced he would not live beyond his 77th birthday. He sank into a coma on his 77th birthday, and died four days later.

The coal mined in Britain was formed 270-300 million years ago.

In the Great Fire of London in 1666 only six people died.

Honey used to be given to babies during baptism.

In the Wankie National Park in Rhodesia there is a herd of 4,000 elephants.

Hadrian's Wall in the north of England is 77 miles long.

The mean annual temperature in Reykjavik, just below the Arctic Circle, is higher than that in New York.

The organ of the Anglican Cathedral in Liverpool has over 9,700 pipes.

Doris Day started her career as a dancer, and only became a singer after a long stay in hospital for a broken leg.

Nearly 40 per cent of the USSR is covered by forests.

Tennyson wrote a 60,000-word poem when he was ten.

During the reign of Peter the Great in Russia a special tax was levied on beards.

faintest sounds. As a matter of fact, that remarkable sense of hearing and a keen sense of smell are very important to the giraffe in detecting danger.

Another curious thing about it is the tongue, which is often 46 centimetres long. The giraffe can use its tongue so skilfully that it can pick the smallest leaves off thorny plants without being pricked.

When you see a giraffe moving, you notice that it ambles rather than walks. Despite this, it can gallop at more than 30 miles an hour when pursued and it can outrun the fastest horse!

While the giraffe is a gentle animal, it can put up a good fight when attacked. It kicks out its hind legs or uses its head like a sledge hammer. Even a lion is pretty careful when attacking a giraffe. When you think of a giraffe, the first thing you probably think of is its long neck. But there is another rather remarkable thing about this strange animal—it has practically no voice!

Does the giraffe have a voice?

The reason we said "practically" is that certain giraffes, which have been observed, in zoological parks, have made certain types of noises. For example, female giraffes have been heard to moo softly, especially when they seem worried about something. And certain young giraffes, when hungry, have sometimes made sounds like those of a calf's

But in a giraffe, the voice box, or larynx, is almost completely undeveloped, so that we can say that most giraffes do not have a voice! But since all animals have some means for protecting themselves against enemies, the giraffe has other ways to make up for its lack of voice. One is the development of its senses of hearing and smell. A giraffe's ears are sensitive to the faintest sounds, which help it detect any danger. And its sense of smell is so good that it can "smell trouble" even when it is far away!

Another protection the giraffe has is its ability to move around. The giraffe can gallop at more than 30 miles an hour when pursued, and can run faster than the fastest horse!

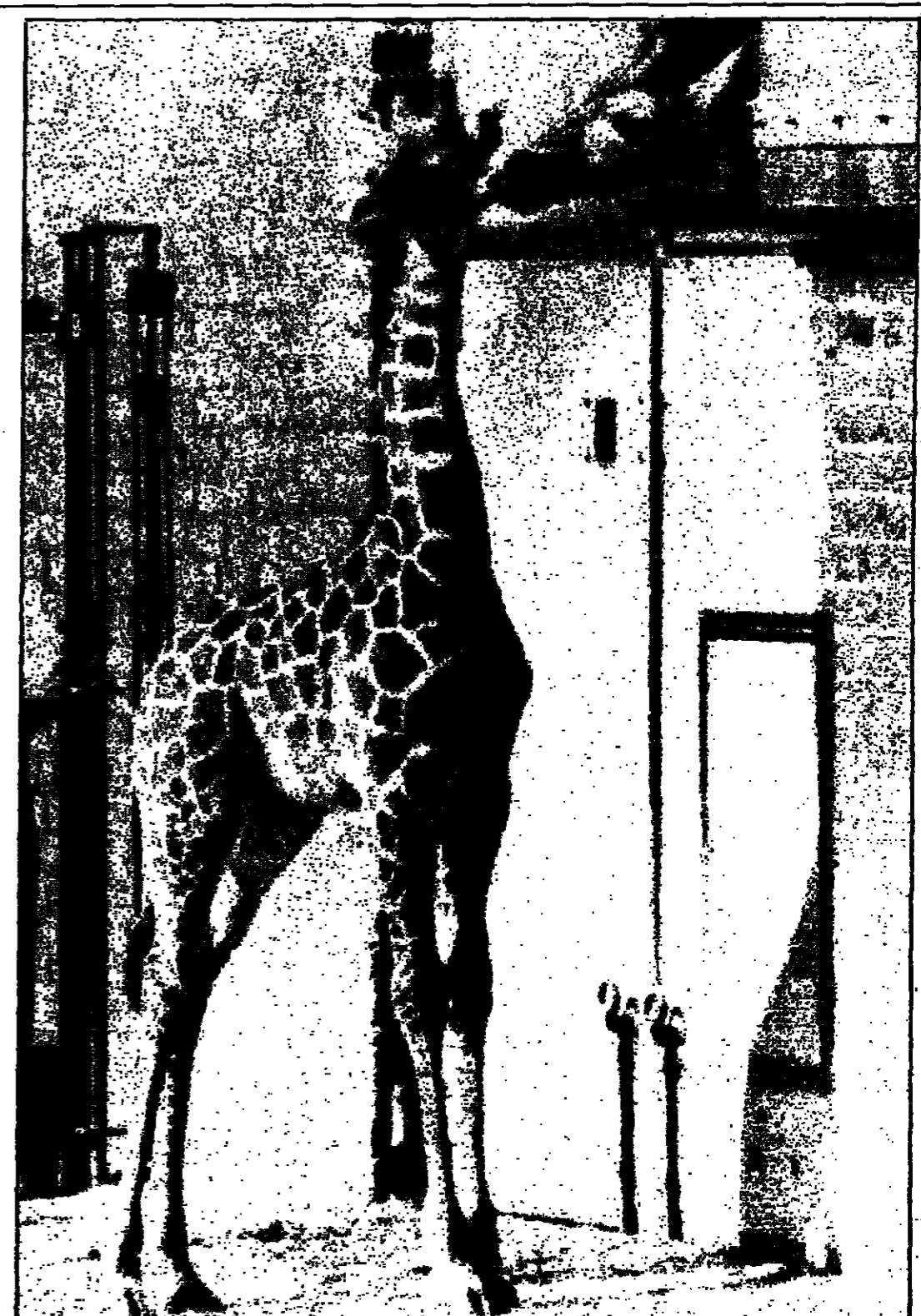
Still another protection for the giraffe is its colouring. It blends in so well with its surroundings that, despite its enormous size, it is often very difficult to spot a giraffe when it is standing in a forest.

Do you have other knowledge about giraffes or any other animals? If you do, your fellow readers will be really happy if you share it with them.

Remember, for all entries, clearly state your name, school, class and telephone number. Also, do not forget to enclose your photograph.

We are all waiting...

Right: 'Annabel Craft' a three-week-old giraffe calf gets a lick of encouragement from her brother 'Henry Cooper', as she makes her first appearance at the Regent's Park zoo. Her birth marks 150 years of successful giraffe breeding at London zoo.



Australia beaten in World Cup qualifying match

New Zealand spring surprise

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, April 2. (Agencies): New Zealand recovered from a thumping last month by Australia with a surprise 2-0 revenge defeat of the Socceros in a World Cup qualifying match yesterday.

The All Whites had never lost to the Australians on home ground. But they still started the Oceania/Israel group second round clash the underdogs and manager John Adshead gambled by making five changes to the side which went down 4-1 in Sydney.

The gamble paid off. From 10 minutes into the game New Zealand kept a tight rein on the Australians, never allowing the visitors any serious scoring chances.

Malcolm Dunford, blood streaming from his forehead after a clash with Oscar Crino, opened the scoring in the 19th minute with a magnificent header off a Noel Barkley free kick.

In the second half, Billy Wright put the game beyond Australia's reach in the 81st minute when he curled a 20-metre shot into the top of the net. Group favourites Australia now must beat Israel to keep alive their hopes.

"We took a lot of chances and it came off," said Adshead. "We've put the pressure right back on again." The all whites themselves will meet Israel with fresh confidence in Auckland's Mount Smart Stadium on April 9.

Yusupov leads in World Chess Championship

BARCELONA, Spain, April 3. (Reuter): Artur Yusupov of the Soviet Union took the lead in the World Chess Cup in Barcelona yesterday when he drew with Hungary's Soltan Ribli in the fourth round.

World champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union drew against American Yasser Seirawan and trailed in 14th place.

In other fourth round matches:

Valery Salov (Soviet Union) beat Jonathon Speelman (Britain); Jesus Nogueiras (Cuba) beat Jahan Hjartarson (Iceland); Ljubomir Ljubavlevich (Yugoslavia) beat Rafael Vaganian (Soviet Union); Miguel Illescas (Spain) beat Victor Korchnoi (Switzerland); Boris Spassky (France) drew against Robert Hubner (West Germany).

Prebrag Nikolic (Yugoslavia) drew against Nigel Short (Britain); Alezandr Beliavsky (Soviet Union) did not play.

Standings after four rounds: 1. Yusupov — three points; 2. Ljubavlevich — 2-1/2, one game adjourned; 3. Hjartarson, Hubner, Sherevan — 2-1/2; 6. Short — 2, one game adjourned; 7. Spassky, Illescas — 2; 9. Beliavsky — 1-1/2, one game adjourned, one game to play; 10. Korchnoi, Salov, Nogueiras — 1-1/2, one game adjourned; 13. Ribli — 1-1/2, one game to play; 14. Kasparov — one, one game to play; 15. Nikolic — one; 16. Vaganian — 1-1/2; 17. Speelman — no points, one game to play.

Nugui wins Spanish race

BILBAO, Spain, April 3. (AP): John Nugui of Kenya won an International Cross Country race over 10.2 kms (6.3 miles) in a circuit in this Basque city yesterday.

He won in 31 minutes and 55 seconds, one second ahead of France's Bruno le Stum. Third was Tim Hutchings, England, in 32:07 followed by his English fellow David Carke in 32:11.

Annette Sergent of France won the race for Women over 5.1 kms (3.1 miles) in 17:56, followed by Carolyn Schuwallow of Australia in 18:46 and Karen McLeod of Scotland in 19:54.

Bordin's joke

ERONA, Italy, April 3. (reuter): Italy's Olympic marathon gold medallist Lido Bordin was playing an "idiot's joke" when he said he had to give up competitive running, his girlfriend said yesterday.

Bordin, 30, said in a live television interview on Saturday that made a promise to himself to resign in favour of sport if he n't the marathon at last summer's Seoul Olympics.

"I can't reconcile this activity with competitive sport and before I really think I will run races," he said.

His girlfriend, Francesca, the Italian news agency Ansa, was merely joking, has no intention of giving up, she said.

In Athens, striker Stavros Stamatios equalised the score just three minutes before the final whistle to give AEK a 3-3 tie at home over defending champion Larissa and the chance to retain a clear lead in the Greek Soccer Championship.

Second-placed Olympiakos Piraeus continued to trail behind AEK by three points after playing to a scoreless draw against Doxa Drama away.

Panathinaikos tied 1-1 against Olympos at home, while Iraklis drew 0-0 against Volos away. Both teams now share third place with 32 points each, seven points away from AEK.

In AEK's Nea Philadelphia stadium, Larissa opened the scoring with a goal from striker Vasilis Karapalis in the 19th minute. The home team equalised in the 32nd with a free kick just outside the penalty area from Polish midfielder Miroslaw Okonski.

Regained

Seven minutes later, Larissa regained the lead with a shot from defender Yiannis Alexopoulos.

In the 68th, AEK's Yugoslav midfielder Toni Sionas levelled the score. The game began heating up in the 84th when striker Michalis Ziegas gave Larissa a 3-2 lead, only to have Stavros Stamatios take it away with a header three minutes later.

Panathinaikos took an early lead in its game against Olympos with midfielder Kostas Antoniou

scoring in the 5th. But the Cretan team evened in the 86th with striker Costas Batsinilas slipping the ball into the net at close range.

In the day's most interesting game, Panionios' rookie striker Theodoros Zakkas pulled off a hat-trick to give his team a 3-1 win against Ethnikos Piraeus at home. Zakkas scored in the 11th, 21st and 65th.

But it wasn't Zakkas' scoring that drew fan interest to the game. It was both teams inability to score any penalties.

Panionios missed one and Ethnikos flubbed two in the space of five minutes, from the 54th to the 59th.

Defensive

In Paris, Daniel Xueres' header in the 63rd minute broke a tight defensive game on Saturday to give Paris-SL Germain a 1-0 victory over Nice, helping the Parisians hold their lead in the French Soccer League.

Xueres' 14th goal of the season came on a pass from Safer Susic after Nice let its guard down after more than an hour of tough defensive play before 15,000 fans at Parc des Princes.

The Parisians retain a two-point lead over Marseille, which has a match in hand.

Marseille remained close with an impressive 3-1 victory at Metz on the strength of goals by defenseman Philippe Thys, midfielder Franck Sauze and striker Jean-Pierre Papin, who scored his 17th goal.

Auxerre, meanwhile, broke

out of its slump and remained in contention with a 2-1 home victory over Sochaux. The win enabled Auxerre to jump over Sochaux into third place in the standings, four points behind the leaders.

Fifth-place Monaco produced the biggest offensive show of the night with a 4-2 home victory over Montpellier, with Glen Hoddle and Georges Weah each scoring a pair of goals.

Draw

Elsewhere, Nantes yielded a 1-1 draw at home to 17th-place Laval. Cannes pummeled Lens 3-0. Lille and Toulouse played to a scoreless draw, as did Toulon and St. Etienne. Bordeaux edged Racing Club 3-2 and Caen and Strasbourg played to a 3-3 draw.

In Geneva, Young Boys of Bern, again in top form, trounced Servette 7-0 to move into the second place of the Swiss Soccer Championships.

With five of its regular players absent, Servette put up little resistance against the strong hosts. Dario Zuffi scored three goals and Anders Limpar, Bern's Swedish striker, put in two.

Duel

Visiting Lucerne retained a narrow lead, tying Sion 1-1 and Bellinzona held Grasshopper to a goalless draw, the third draw for the hosts in as many final round games.

In Madrid, Celta moved up to third place in the Spanish Soccer

League yesterday with a 2-2 draw at home to Real Sociedad, but the chase for the title remained a duel between champions Real Madrid and second-placed Barcelon.

Real Madrid, on form for their home European Cup semifinal first leg tie against AC Milan on Wednesday, stayed three points clear when they held the Catalans to a 0-0 draw in Barcelona on Saturday night.

"It wasn't decisive but it was very important," said Real striker Emilio Butragueno, back after a spell on the bench.

"We can be a bit easier about the remaining matches, while Barcelona will have to go all out," said his colleague Rafael Martin Vasquez.

Both sides claimed with justification that bad luck stopped them scoring a winner.

Barcelona coach Johan Cruyff insisted the title race was not over. "Nothing's changed, we're still out to win," he said.

Celta trails nine points behind Barcelona and Valencia slipped to fourth after losing 1-0 in Seville.

Fifth-placed Atletico Madrid moved back into contention for a place in Europe next season, just a point behind Valencia, after beating last-placed Elche 3-1 at home.

But Atletico's Baltasar de Morais, the League's top goalscorer with 24 goals this season, faces a one-match suspension next weekend after receiving a fourth caution.

Sheriff edges Ceron in 10-mile race

WASHINGTON, April 3. (AP): Brian Sheriff, a native of Zimbabwe, won a final sprint and edged Dionicio Ceron of Mexico by one second in the Cherry Blossom 10-mile (16 kms) race yesterday.

Sheriff had 16 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists in less than three quarters, leading the Washington Bullets to their 13th consecutive home victory, a 120-103 rout of the Golden State Warriors.

Joe Dumars scored 23 points and Bill Laimbeer added 22 points and 18 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons stretched their winning streak to eight games with a 117-101 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers.

Steve Jones of Wales, the favourite, finished third in 46:43.

Lisa Weidenbach set an American women's record of 52 minutes, 34 seconds in the race past flowering Cherry Blossom trees lining streets of the nation's capital.

The men stayed in a tight pack of about a dozen for most of the race. Shortly after nine miles (14.5 kms), Ceron surged and Sheriff followed.

"He kept pushing it," Sheriff said. "I was just barely holding on. I just dug in a little deeper."

"When he went by me, I had nothing left," Ceron, a policeman in Santa Maria del Rayon, south of Mexico City, said through an interpreter.

Third

Steve Jones of Wales, the favourite, finished third in 46:49.

Weidenbach, who broke her own record of 53:10, was running alongside Cathy O'Brien and Kim Jones when she made her move and broke away about three miles (five kilometres) into the race.

But there are those who do not see a trend or agree with the numbers.

"I don't think there are any more like that now than when I started playing," Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose said, pointing to the sluggers and sprinters of the past. "We always had Willie Mays and Hank Aaron."

"I could hear the crowd cheering for Cathy," Weidenbach, the 1985 Cherry Blossom winner, said. "I just tried to relax and talk to myself, and say positive things. It's hard, because Cathy finishes so strong all the time."

O'Brien didn't have the strength to catch Weidenbach and finished in 52:44, while Kim Jones was third in 53:41.



Arsenal captain, Tony Adams, leaps for joy after scoring against Manchester United in the second half of their game giving Arsenal a 1-0 lead on Sunday. Moments later though, at the other end of the field, Adams accidentally slipped on the muddy surface and sliced the ball into his own net which ended in 1-1. (Reuter wirephoto)

Liverpool dangerous when behind

LONDON, April 3. (Reuter): Liverpool are never more dangerous than when they are behind — an opinion often expressed by English soccer commentators and one with which players and officials readily agree.

Its truth is being underlined once again as Liverpool make a timely return to their most irresistible form in defence of the League crown that at one stage seemed to be slipping from their grasp.

Five weeks ago the champions were 19 points behind leaders Arsenal and the title battle seemed to be developing into a two-horse race between the London club and Norwich, seeking their first-ever division one championship.

Goal

But Liverpool, pacing their charge to perfection, have won seven consecutive league matches, capped by a 1-success at Norwich on Saturday that lifted them into second place, two points behind Arsenal. Third-placed Norwich are another point back.

"It doesn't put us out of it," said Stringer. "We are still in there, and there are still a lot of points to play for."

"Obviously we are now looking for someone else to do us a favour and take the points from Liverpool. It's all in the melting pot."

Stringer acknowledged: "Liverpool didn't disappoint us in the way they played. They are on a charge and gave us a stern test. But we came out of it some credit. And if you go down fighting and with spirit you have something to show for it even if

OTFA may remove Johnson's world record

TORONTO, April 3. (Reuter): The Ontario Track and Field Association (OTFA) said it may follow its lead for national records at its annual meeting in June. He said they would also pressure the International Amateur Federation (IAAF) to remove world records set by athletes who admit to using banned performance-enhancing drugs.

In a seven-hour weekend meeting, the association also voted to suspend Johnson's sprint coach, Charlie Francis, from his position as a national coach for five years.

The athletics group also

met to discuss the use of anabolic steroids by his sprinters.

The athletics group also passed a motion to erase Ontario records set by any athlete who admits using banned substances prior to the event.

"We're trying to bring some credibility back to honest performances," OTFA president Rolf Lund said in a story in yesterday's Toronto Sun. He was not available for additional comment.

The IAAF has said there are no procedures to cancel records retroactively, despite testimony by Francis that Johnson had used steroids prior to the Rome meeting.

Johnson was stripped of his Olympic 100 metres gold medal and 9.79-second world record in Seoul last September when he tested positive for a banned anabolic steroid.

His previous world record of 9.83 seconds set at the Rome World Championships in 1987 still stands however.

The OTFA ruling cancels Ontario records set by Angela Issajenko, Canada's top woman sprinter. Issajenko told the inquiry that she had been taking anabolic steroids since 1979.

The athletics portion of the federal inquiry resumes today in Toronto after a two-week recess with testimony from Canadian sprinter Tony Sharpe.

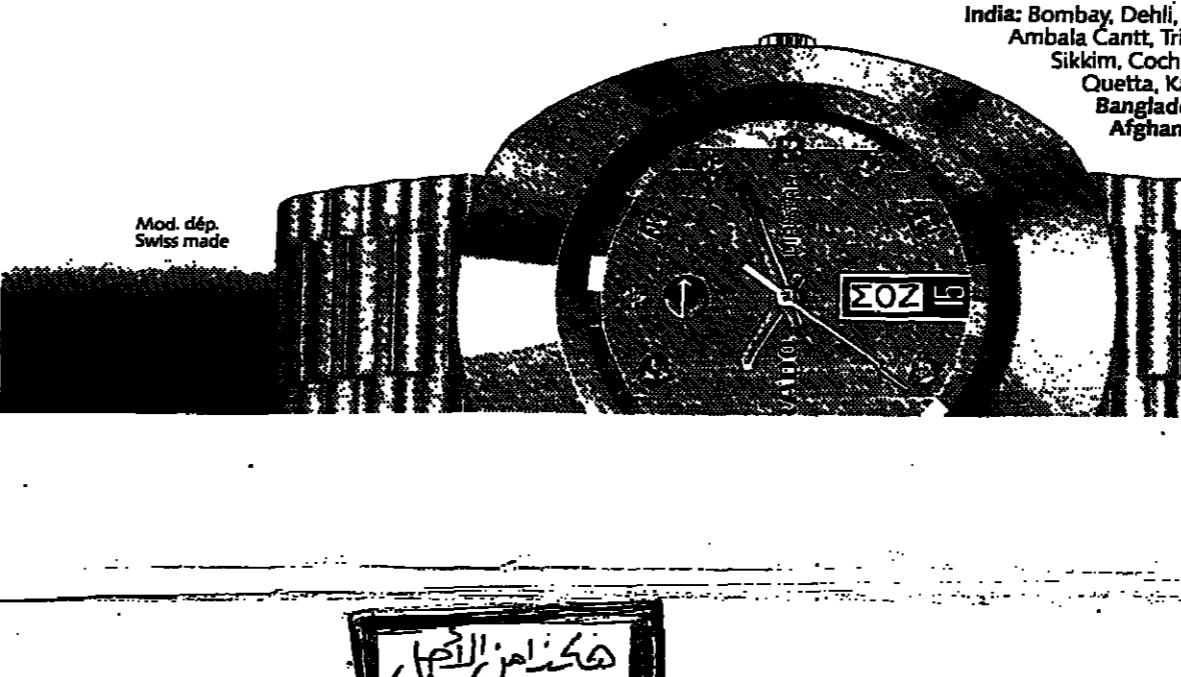
Johnson and his doctor, Mario (Jamie) Astaphan, are expected to testify at a later date.

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BKME defeat Casuals

BKME defeated a depleted Casuals side in the KOC Thursday League at Ahmadi by five wickets. The game was a warm up for the same confrontation in the Friday League next week which may well determine the championship.

Casuals skipper Richard Snowden won the toss, seemingly a bad omen for the side of late, and elected to bat. Regular opener Kevin Wells went out with a new partner in Anil Khazanchi but the pair made a slow start as the strong wind gave Salim and Ayub the edge.

Stump

Wells began to find his feet and reached 12 before one cut back to remove his leg stump. Khazanchi did not last much longer before Ayub picked up his first wicket, well caught behind by Ronnie.

Simon Clements kept up his recent form with a well struck 27 before Bastaki left him in no doubt by knocking down the stumps. Steve Anderson (23) played another useful innings while Fernando (11), Tatham (13) and Ross (10) took the score up to 116 in the allotted overs.

It was never going to be a large enough score but the Casuals bowlers gave hint of their ability to win a match by having the BKME batsmen in difficulties. Steve Anderson wasted no time in bowling Rammchand (4) and Mathew (6) while Kevin Wells did the same to Machado (19) and Ayub (26) during a fine spell of accurate bowling.

Edge

Richard Snowden had Bastaki dropped behind off his first ball and saw him edge the next two dangerously close. Snowden bowled Ronney (6) and, with Peter Bond causing problems at the other end, always looked dangerous but Bastaki (38 not out) and Sandeep (13) saw their team to victory.

Akhras overtakes Nierva in bowling tourney

AT the resumption of the second Afghanistan Freight Open Bowling Tournament, the top 24 bowlers from the second qualifying round played another 3-game series to pick out the 12 semi-finalist who will vie for the top 3 positions of the step ladder finals for the men's division.

With the scores in the previous elimination rounds still counting in determining the 12 semi-finalist, Nafez Akhras, who was in second position before the tournament overtook Pete Nierva for the semifinal leadership while Mar Evangelista retained his third spot position. The rest of the semi-finalists for the men's are as follows in order of their standings: Hamid Atabi, Mohd Darwish, George Gaerlan, Sameer Peter, Munib Hamdan, Tony Lascos, Nelson Guillermo, Mars Balisi and Anukul.

After the last pin of the semifinals went down, Nafez Akhras emerged as the top final-ist with a 3-game total of 585 pf. Mars Balisi on the other hand came from nowhere to claim the second spot with 566 pf while Mar Evangelista retained his third position but not after winning in the tie breaker between him and Hamid Atabi after they both scored 563 pf. Mohd Darwish with 549 pf completed the cast of 5 finalist.

In the first match of the step ladder for men between Darwish and Otaibi, Otaibi prevailed 211-191 to advance a step higher, but Mar Evangelista proved himself once more disposing the Saudi bowler with ease 152-163 thus paving the way for all Filipino showdown for the right to challenge the top finalist. Evangelista overcame an off form Mars Balisi 193-144 to arrange a final match with Nafez Akhras. The game was a heart stopper all the way and both finalist are on even terms till the last frame but the breaks went on Nafez's side as he edge out Mar for the championship. The final score was 201-199 for Nafez the champion in the men's division.

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China's dominance in world table tennis at stake

Swedes whitewash Koreans in semifinal

DORTMUND, West Germany, April 3. (Reuter): Sweden's men surprised even their coach Glenn Osth with 5-0 semifinal whitewash of North Korea today to earn another shot at ending China's dominance of world table tennis.

Osth, always the most loyal of trainers, had to admit he was taken aback by the ease with which his players swept into the team final at the world championships.

Better

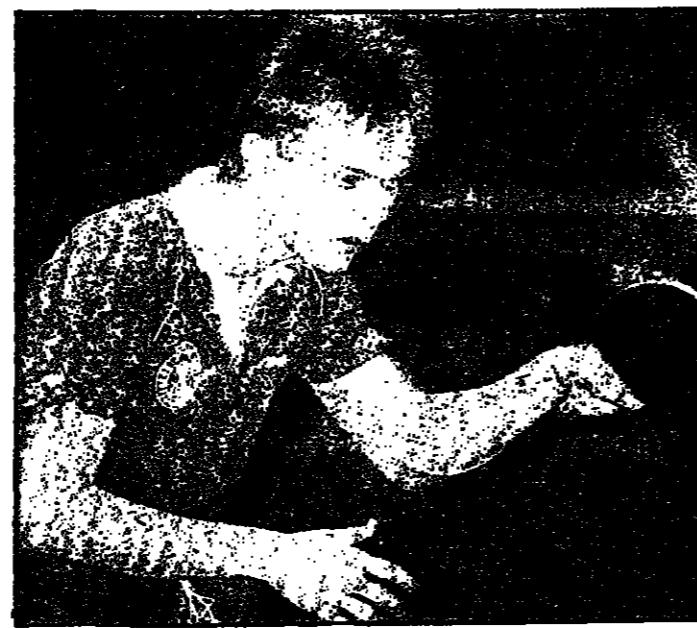
"We played better than I expected," said Osth, who has led Sweden into the last three finals against China only to lose each time.

"We have played well all through the tournament but today we were top class," he said.

China, champions 10 times since 1961, had only brief worrying moments in their 5-1 defeat of surprise semifinalists the Soviet Union.

Former World Cup winner Teng Yi lost the opening rubber in two games to Dmitri Mazunov whose brother Andrei, silver medalist at last year's European championship, then took a game off doubles specialist Chen Long-gan.

China have beaten Sweden 5-0 in the last two finals but the



Appelgren: beat Hui

Swedish players feel their luck might change here tomorrow.

"This is the fourth time we will play the final against China and I think maybe this is the best chance we have ever had," said European champion Mikael Appelgren, who beat North Korea's Kim Song Hui 21-14 21-

13.

Osth was particularly pleased with Appelgren and with former European champion Jorgen Persson who contributed two wins over Li Guo-Sang and Chu Jong-Chol, to today's success.

"Appelgren is making a habit of killing the strongest player on

the opposing team and he did it again very easily," Osth said.

"Jorgen is so far unbeaten — he has 14 victories and no losses," he added.

But China's Chen, the world silver medallist in 1985, is also unbeaten here and looks a winning combination with world champion Jiang Jialiang.

"Sweden will be a strong team in the final but we remain optimistic and are hoping for a 5-3 or 5-4 victory," said China's head coach Xu Shaofa.

China had expected to play South Korea, who boast Olympic champion Yoo Nam-Kyu and silver medalist Kim Ki-Taek, in their semifinal.

But the Soviet Union, with Andrei Mazunov winning three rubbers, defeated the South Koreans in the quarterfinals and had the Chinese rushing to the form books to read up on their surprise opponents.

Tactics

The Soviet team was a dark horse for us as we met them the last time in 1973," said Xu. "We changed our tactics after we were 1-0 down and then our win was easy."

The Soviet men will play North Korea, bronze medalists two years ago, to decide third place tomorrow.

"We welcomed all ITTF member associations regardless of

India punished for refusing to play Israel

DORTMUND, West Germany, April 3. (Reuter): India were punished for refusing to play Israel at the World Table Tennis Championships today and the tournament head called for strong action against teams who staged political boycotts.

"We think it shameful to mis-use (our) hospitality for political manoeuvres," said organising committee president Hans Wilhelm Gaeb after India followed Pakistan in failing to appear for a tie against Israel.

Relegated

The competition jury, acting on a formal protest by Israel, relegated India's men's team to 32nd place in the final world championship rankings. The Indians had been due to play off for 27th and 28th places.

Indian table tennis officials said the team were following government orders not to play Israel. The two countries have no diplomatic ties and India barred Israel from the world championships it hosted in 1987 and 1975.

Gaeb called on the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) which meets here on Friday to act against teams who refused to play as scheduled.

"We welcomed all ITTF member associations regardless of

their political points of view to the Federal Republic of Germany as our guests," Gaeb said.

"We now expect the ITTF to act as severely as it is empowered to."

But organising committee officials said it was difficult to prove that a team had pulled out because of political reasons.

Both India and Pakistan, who failed to appear for a tie against Israel on Friday and were relegated to the bottom of their group, were penalised on technical and not political grounds.

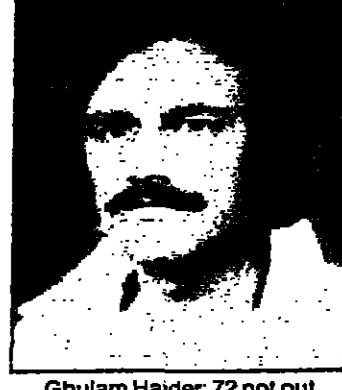
Pakistan said they had missed the playing schedule.

"There is no proof that it is political," said organising committee sports director Eberhard Schoeller. "India gave us no reason."

Last year India's Davis Cup squad pulled out of a Tel Aviv tie against Israel on the orders of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, saying threats had been made against their players in India.

The International Tennis Federation (ITTF) banned India, the 1987 losing finalists, from Davis Cup play for a year and relegated them from the premier world group to the third and lowest division in the competition.

Galaxy lift Pakistan Trophy



Ghulam Haider: 72 not out

A DISCIPLINED innings by Ghulam Haider and Som Flashy by assured six wickets victory for Galaxy over Crown Club in the finals of Pakistan Trophy at NC ground last Thursday. The Pakistan Trophy is one of the eight trophies organised by Kuwait Cricket League (KCL).

After winning the toss Crown's captain Naeem Iqbal elected to bat and amassed 192 for seven in allotted 25 overs. Parvez 61, Bitti Singh 31, Ejaz 28 and Naeem Iqbal 23 were the main contributors towards the total.

For Galaxy Tarique Bashir and Ghulam Haider bowled well taking two wickets each as Sher Afzal and Zahid Butt picked one each.

Relying, Galaxy suffered an early loss when Sher Afzal was run-out in the first over. In the next over Zahid Butt clean bowled Taj Maliz for a total of 22. Zahid Butt struck again by removing Ayub, but then Ghulam Haider and Zahid Butt added 70 valuable runs.

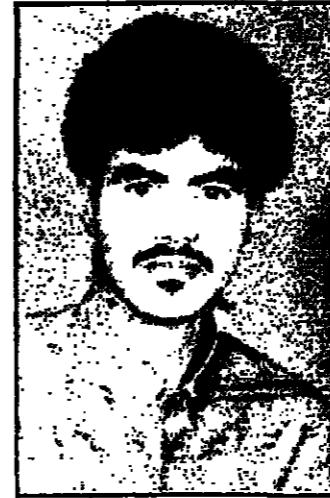
At this stage Mukesh was well caught off Zahid Butt, scoring 40 runs. After Zahid's departure Azeem joined Haider with Galaxy's needing 101 runs in remaining 11 overs.

He soon opened up and Galaxy run rate propped up.

At the other end Ghulam Haider also played his role of keeping the end intact. In the last over Galaxy needed 14 runs which were scored with a ball to spare. Ghulam Haider's 72 came with six boundaries as Azeem's swashbuckling 52 were studded with five excellent hits to the fence.

Sajid Rizvi announced that the prize distribution ceremony will be held at a later date.

Khaitan crush Shaab school



Javed: 101 runs



Ateeque: four wickets

KAHTAN XI crushed Shaab school in a cricket match played at the Millat ground.

Shaab won the toss and elected to bat. The main scorers for Shaab were Arshed 41 and Nasar 19. The main bowlers were Ateeque four wickets, Javed two, Mansoor, Amer and Waseem one each.

For Khaitan, Javed and Amer opened the batting. Javed scored 101 runs including ten fours and five sixes. Amer was out for 21.

Lanka Colts lift Burud Trophy

TRICO International sponsored TRICO International sponsored Lanka Colts Cricket Club deservedly won the recently concluded GCL Burud Trophy Tournament 88/89 conducted at the EPI grounds Ardiya by finishing at the top of the table with 52 points and losing just one match in the league.

Combined team-work and sportsmanship are the ingredients that brought fame to the Colts players from match to match and finally clinch the trophy.

The trophy sponsored and donated by the patron of the GCL Mohamed Saleh Burud for the past six years had been one of the premier cricket tournaments in Kuwait. The 88/89 season drew many noble and top ranking teams to vie for the championship.

Brian Close, currently supremo at Yorkshire CCC, is well remembered for his determination and courage when facing the pace of West Indians Wes Hall and Charlie Griffiths. His success against a hostile attack led to his recall during the twilight of his career to stand up to the threat of the Australian pair Jeff Thomson and Denis Lillie.

Close was the youngest person ever to play for England and captained the team from 1966-67, winning series against the West Indies, India and Pakistan before being controversially replaced prior to a tour to the West Indies.

His talk is sure to be full of interest and forthright opinion as befitting his character. Tickets for the function may be obtained by ringing Simon Clements (5333248) or Val Tudball (5327159).

Points table at the end of the tournament:

Contestants Points

1. Lanka Colts C.C. 52

2. Falcon C.C. 49

3. Friends C.C. 45

4. Hubara C.C. 37

5. C.C.K. 27

6. Lanka Lions C.C. 26

7. Rangers 15

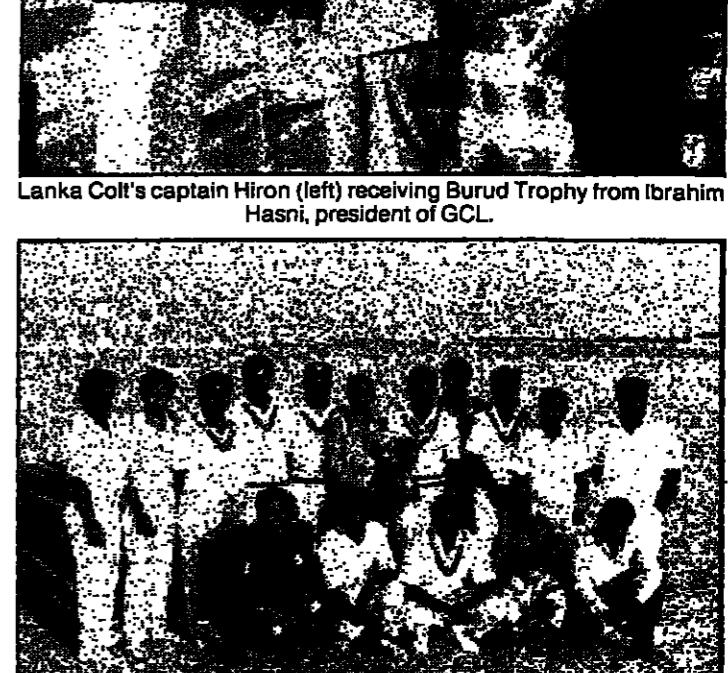
8. Flying Arrows 07

Following are the winners of special prizes for noteworthy performances in the GCL tournament:

The best bowler's prize donated by Qurbani Ali was won by Shehzad Ahmed of Prince CC for his score of five wickets for seven runs against Rangers CC.

The second best bowler's prize went to Sam of Lanka Lions CC for his two wickets off just two balls, also against Rangers CC.

Hiran Fido the Lanka Colts skipper won prizes donated by Mirza Yasseen for carrying his



Chris Amarasekera of Lanka Colts was adjudged the best wicketkeeper of the tournament and was awarded the prize donated by Kaisar Mirchandani. Chris also won a special prize for his power-packed century against Lanka Lions C.C.

Zahid and Sajad of Falcon CC won the prize donated by Sarfraz Ahmad for the highest opening stand of GCL which was worth 259 runs with both batsmen scoring centuries.

Hiran Fido the Lanka Colts skipper won prizes donated by Mirza Yasseen for carrying his

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